

**AFTER  
DEATH  
WHAT?**  
THIS  
PAPER  
TELLS  
YOU

SPIRITUALISM'S PICTORIAL JOURNAL

# TRUTH The PSYCHIC OBSERVER

**TRUTH  
FOR  
AUTHORITY  
NOT  
AUTHORITY  
FOR  
TRUTH**

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## Supernormal Phenomena

Demonstrated at

### Psychists, Inc., New York City

Under Strict Test Conditions

*Partial Materialization,  
Dematerialization and  
Levitation seen in good  
red light.*

The Medium Was  
DR. J. J. CARROLL

A Special Report For  
PSYCHIC OBSERVER  
By  
GEORGE OWEN

Impressive, astonishing and convincing psychic phenomena were seen and heard by twenty-four persons who sat in a seance at Psychists, Incorporated, 313 West 57th St., New York City, Wednesday evening, April 4th, last. The medium, through whose psychic powers many remarkable manifestations took place, was Dr. J. J. Carroll. Dr. Carroll is leader of *The Psychic Science and Research Center*, 557 Tonawanda St., Buffalo, N. Y. Members ONLY of Psychists, Inc., were privileged to attend this seance.

What follows is a faithful and true record of what we saw and heard, made from my notes taken at the time, together with my personal impressions as one who has had long and varied experiences with leading mediums across the ocean.

#### Seance Room Conditions

I had never seen Dr. Carroll before, and was first introduced to him by Mr. Pressing at the Taft Hotel, N.Y.C., on the afternoon of the day of the seance which was to be held at 8 o'clock that night. All present were strangers to me.

The room, in which the seance was held was about 10 feet wide, 20 feet long and 12 feet high. It had two doors, one at each end, and no windows. Marbra Brooks, Office Manager, sat beside the door entering the room, which was closed during the entire seance.

There was a cabinet by the door. This was 6 ft. long, 3 ft. wide and 9 ft. high. It was covered with heavy black drape, with an opening all along the front of 2 ft. that was 4 ft. from the floor. Entrance into the cabinet was not possible, for the curtain on one side by the door was nailed down. Its back and other side were solid walls, and fourth side was front where two members and Dr. Carroll sat.

Usually mediums, or those I have seen, sit inside the cabinet; not so with Dr. Carroll, for he sat outside.

Soon after 8 o'clock, the medium arranged the sitters. Then he

displayed various articles which the powers from the unseen world would use to demonstrate to us mortals present that they are alive. He explained what these articles were and how each would be used by spirit power. These were:

1. AN ORDINARY GUITAR, which he said would play harmonies to accompany singing by the sitters.
2. A TRUMPET 3 ft. long, 4 inches diameter at largest end, covered with luminous paint so it could be seen in the dark.
3. A SMALL BOX, in which was fitted a mechanical musical instrument.
4. A TAMBOURINE.
5. A HAND-BELL.
6. A TABLET of white writing paper.
7. A VIOLIN owned and brought to the seance by a Psychist member.
8. A VASE OF FLOWERS.

These articles were all placed on a card table in the cabinet. Then Dr. Carroll told of his experiences and suggested what we might do to get the best results. In full light, he said, little or nothing could be done, but with red light, phenomena may be produced. He said it was just as in photography, chemistry and astronomy — darkness or certain kinds of light had to be used to obtain the desired results.

#### Exact Test Conditions

Clear or white light has a positive effect on the phenomena, he pointed out, furthermore, a medium must be in a negative state. Everyone knows that red light helps by having the least resistance because certain light rays had been filtered out.

In total darkness, the best phenomena occurs, the medium told us, but he desired red light so all could see what was going on.

To regulate the light, Dr. Carroll had a projector. This was on a table, 5 ft. from, and in front of the cabinet. It was operated, as directed by the medium, by one of the members of Psychists. Dr. Carroll had no one whatsoever with him to aid in holding the seance. The projector could be used to give red or full, clear light as desired.

Having explained the procedure and operating details of the seance, Dr. Carroll next had two members sit in front, with their backs to the cabinet. Around them he

pinned some black draping, then he sat down beside these two ladies, both of whom were chosen from the members present. At this point, Carroll has some one to also pin the black draping around himself.

This black material, through which light could not pass, covered all three. Their heads were in view and their faces were clearly visible in the red light. The medium and ladies had hold of each other's hands, so that if one moved the others would know.

#### Amazing Phenomena

The actual seance started in red light. All sitters could plainly see the faces of the medium and ladies who served as a battery.

We were asked to sing, and soon noises were heard inside the cabinet. Then the trumpet was seen to come out of the cabinet and move about high above the heads of the sitters. The strings of the guitar were strummed loudly several times.

The medium said that if we sang the guitar might play the melody to accompany us. "Rock of Ages" was sung and, sure enough, the guitar played the tune as we sang several verses. Next "Old Black Joe" was sung, and the guitar also played its tune in accompaniment.

This time the guitar was seen to come out of the cabinet through the opening where it stayed suspended in the air above and in front of the sitters. Dr. Carroll asked someone to come up and take hold of the guitar. A lady did this, and it played as she held it.

#### Independent Writing

The violin had its strings strummed several times, and its bow could be seen moving about in and out of the cabinet.

The trumpet again moved about in the air. As it came out of the cabinet Dr. Carroll asked one of the sitters to come up and take hold of the trumpet to test its power. A man did this and held it with both hands. Suddenly the trumpet was pulled from his hands with such force that he was almost thrown to the floor. This force is unknown to science.

The medium then asked someone to give a name to see if writing could appear on the pad. A name was given, and instantly we could hear writing in the cabinet. Then we could hear a page being ripped off the pad. This page was thrown from the cabinet to the sitter who had given the name. This was done six or eight times for different sitters. All names were written as called out.

#### Dematerialization

Flowers were taken from the vase and given to different sitters. On one occasion, a flower was passed through the black draping instead of through the opening in it. To those who study the science of psychic phenomena this is known as *de-materialization*, solid matter passing through solid matter which, according to all laws of physical science, is impossible; but the impossibilities of physics

(Continued on Page 4, Col. 1)

These Belonged To

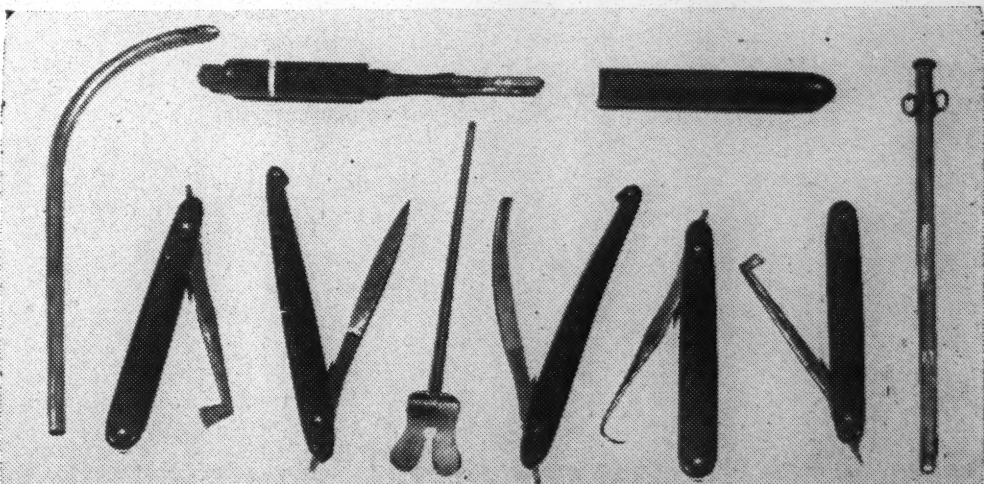
## ANDREW JACKSON DAVIS

This was his cane



The above is a reproduction of a photograph of the upper portion of the cane, which was owned originally by General Andrew Jackson, after whom Davis was named. This cane was one of the prized possessions of Andrew Jackson Davis and was presented to Dr. Bigelow by Mrs. Davis, after the "Poughkeepsie Seer" passed away. Visitors to Lily Dale this summer may see this cane at the offices of PSYCHIC OBSERVER.

He used these surgical instruments



The above is a reproduction of a photograph of the surgical instruments used by Andrew Jackson Davis. The leather surgical kit which contains these instruments will be on display at the PSYCHIC OBSERVER office, Lily Dale, N. Y., during July and August. The various instruments above have been described as: catheter, lance, caustic pencil, tongue depressor, artery "pick-up," etc.

Wherein I Meet

## DR. FRANK S. BIGELOW

One of Andrew Jackson Davis' "Children"

Seer's only surviving  
"child" loans editor  
Davis' personal effects.

By R. G. PRESSING

For the past several years, I have known about Dr. Frank S. Bigelow. On several occasions, he submitted articles for publication. Just recently, I learned he had in his possession some of the few remaining personal belongings of Andrew Jackson Davis. After receiving the following letter, I decided to make a trip to his home at Liberty, Maine. Here's the letter that prompted the trip:

March 28, 1945

Dear Mr. Pressing:

I have several of Dr. Davis' personal belongings given to me by Mrs. Davis after the Doctor passed on.

About 20 years before Dr. Davis' passing, I was closely associated with him. As he had no children of his own, he chose four whom he called his children by adoption. They were: F. Forest Harding, Somerville, Mass., who passed to the higher life last September; Harrison D. Barrett, Canaan, Maine, First President of the National Spiritualist Association, who passed away many years ago; Margaret Farrington (Liv-

ington), Augusta, Maine, a mental medium who passed away 20 years ago; and myself. (\*\*)

We called him "Father Davis," and when he passed away Mrs. Davis gave me his silver-headed cane, which was once the property of President Andrew Jackson, for whom Dr. Davis was named. I also have the black broadcloth cape which he wore in the picture found in the front part of his volume, "Beyond the Valley."

I have Davis' gold watch chain, which I am still wearing; a knife, a white vest, a black velvet vest, and his surgeon's kit.

I have saved many letters which he wrote to me; also some of Mrs. Davis' letters, written to me after the Doctor passed away.

The doctor was an inspiration to me in my early years. I will celebrate my 93rd birthday April 3rd.

Sincerely yours,  
Dr. F. S. Bigelow.

Upon consulting train schedules, I found I was obliged to change trains at Boston, Liberty being several hundred miles further north, in the wilds of the State of Maine. I was met at the Belfast, Maine, station by Miss Gladys M. Cove. She is secretary of Temple Heights Spiritualist Ass'n—"The

(Continued on Page 12)

(\*\*) See Pictures Page 12.

(\*) Mr. Owen is a noted Spiritualist from Cardiff, Wales. He has written many articles for "Two Worlds" and "Light," London Spiritualist journals.



# MODERN CRUSADERS

By CLARKSON DYE

298 South 15th St., San Jose, California  
Executive Secretary, The Psychic Fellowship; Member, The American Association for the Advancement of Science.

THE millions slain in the present war, and the sad plight of other millions of their bereaved, these call attention to the most important query that has ever faced mankind—*does death end all?*

A group of us in this area had done some hard thinking, and organization of the *Psychic Fellowship* followed. A perplexing task faced us. It continues to beg for solution.

Can human survival after death be conclusively proven, and in so convincing a manner that the man in the street would envision certain immortality? Religious creeds and their theological bypaths offer only partial consolation to the bereaved. They seem to be asking for something *more positive than faith* and wistful hopes. There must be, we felt, far deeper, sounder enlightenment to be revealed.

Dr. Joseph Banks Rhine

Since science is defined as systematic and formulated knowledge, derived from self-evident truths, this was determined upon as our approach. A survey was therefore first undertaken by us of America's foremost scientists, scholars and educational institutions.

Astute financiers have devised a hundred tricks to insure, and perpetuate wealth. But here, in a matter immeasurable more vital, we found the intellectuals less far-seeing. "*Human survival?*" they protested, "*that is hardly in our line, too busy. Go and see the department down the hall. Look for 'Religion and Ethics' over the door.*"

This is not an exaggeration. After our survey had recorded this disappointing appraisal of the duties of science, it was gratifying to note that Dr. J. B. Rhine of Duke University contemplates a Program of Research on the Hypothesis of Survival.

Bequest Terms Evaded

Deploring the apathy of the run-of-the-mill scientists, we now sought new fields, and hopefully turned to the foundations. In our survey we diligently inquired for those particular foundations wherein donors had explicitly provided that their endowments should be used for the betterment of humanity.

We expected to learn that conscientious trustees had faithfully carried out the last wishes of those who had died in the firm belief that they were helping their fellows, even after the tomb had claimed the donors.

One such donor made a large bequest to Stanford University. He hoped—as Dr. Jordan, then president of the university, admitted—"to bring about a demonstration of the fact of immortality" at the university. THE EXPLICIT TERMS OF THIS BEQUEST HAVE BEEN PERSISTENTLY EVADED FOR THE PAST THIRTY YEARS.

But while our survey revealed that a few foundations were doing a praiseworthy task, fulfilling their duty nobly, most of the others were devoted to ends only remotely, if at all, concerning human betterment. The habits of an obscure tribe, or a study of pre-historic man, etc., etc., such subjects were engaging their attention. They resented being disturbed from comfortable arm-chairs to

bother themselves with anything so trivial (to them) as human destiny.

Psychic research, they intimated, was not intellectually respectable, was allied to witchcraft and ouija board orgies—besides, it was too baffling a subject. Baffling? And yet *Flammarion* asserted that immortality was as demonstrable, through science, as a problem in chemistry. Lodge, Crookes, Swedenborg and a dozen other eminent ones agreed with him.

Fuller Life Beyond

In the field of psychic research an honest, intrepid explorer should discover new realms of wondrous importance to humanity. Should his quest be successful, he would have no rival in renown, his name would be written high above any other. As to the value of his discoveries, such words as "*vast*," "*stupendous*," "*profound*," these would need to be strengthened a thousand-fold to describe them.

Our organization is intensely convinced that the time is not far off when a new *Moses* will appear, holding his brazen serpent aloft, to lead a bewildered and war-torn humanity from the present wilderness of obscurity and doubt to new concepts—to a clear understanding that our lives are but the prelude to a fuller life beyond.

## Astral Projection Analyzed

By GEORGE E. CREGEEN

*Astral projection* is the controlled traveling of the etheric body while the physical body is in a state of sleep. It is not a gift like clairvoyance, or trance control, which may manifest itself suddenly, but an art which must be practiced again and again with great patience before any success may be achieved.

To the beginner, one might say that an "*astral projection*" is a journey into the fourth dimension.

Instead of the dimensions of length, breadth, and height, let us assume that the fixed dimensions of the earth plane are Past, Present and Future. The past can be remembered, the present is always with us, but the future is veiled by a cloud which the average mind fails to penetrate.

In this fourth dimension of astral projection, there is no fixed past, present and future. They all run into one, and through this "*fluid*" condition the etheric form may move at will.

Hence during an astral projec-

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tion one is able to see things from the past, current happenings; and events which have still to occur, and in this dimension, which is merely an expression I am using for the spirit plane, one may converse with loved ones and friends who have passed over.

How It's Done

Having endeavored to define astral projection as simply as possible, it is now my duty to anticipate the question "*How is it done?*"

The rules are fairly simple, the most difficult being the task of banishing from the mind all disturbing thoughts. Astral projection should be attempted a few minutes before sleep, preferably in a comfortable bed, although I have known a soldier-medium who practiced it with nothing but bare floor boards for his bed, and a respirator haversack for his pillow.

Once a comfortable bodily position has been attained in which neither legs nor arms should be crossed, the investigator should cultivate restful thoughts and mental relaxation until eventually, if the experiment is successful, a feeling of light exhilaration should herald the passing of the psychical body from the state of wakening sleep. The etheric body (or real you) will be fully conscious of the change.

Will Power Needed

With many people, this is the stage where things break down. Having accomplished so much, they grow weary and the results are not so much astral projections as aimless astral wanderings. These are of no avail and on awakening will merely leave the student with a medley of confused dream memories.

The whole thing boils down to will power. One must be capable of "*willing*" oneself to "*go places*," and having been one must also be determined to remember everything that has transpired. For no experiment or investigation is worth a jot unless carried out to some definite purpose.

A fellow investigator, *Sgt. Harry Land*, and myself carried out some interesting experiments in various parts of the country. At one time he was away on a battle course in Scotland.

While he was absent I endeavored, during sleep, to project myself to him, and when he returned at the end of the course he was amazed that I was able to describe to him in the minutest detail, the surroundings of his camp.

Experimental Projections

There was another friend of mine who used to attempt astral projection while sleeping in a barrack room full of soldiers. Some of his comrades were rather apprehensive of what they termed his "*ghostly business*," and one used to sleep with his bayonet unsheathed by the side of his bed "*just in case any spirits tried tampering with him.*"

I well remember the laugh this Tommy caused in the small hours one night when he came in from sentry duty. Seeing a window open above the soldier whose astral projections caused him so much alarm, he tip-toed over and closed it tightly, muttering "*If he's out with his spirits tonight, the 'so-and-so' will be absent in the morning!*"

Many and varied results may be obtained from experimental projections, but just one word of warning to beginners. If the attempts lead to a feeling of exhaustion on awakening, it is far better and wiser to give it up for a while.

"Prediction"

When the question is asked . . .

## Is Spiritualism Dangerous?

HERE IS YOUR ANSWER!

### Two of World's Foremost Pioneer Mediums Compiled This Data.

By E. M. & W. H. WALLIS

Authors of

"GUIDE TO MEDIUMSHIP"

The force and cogency of the evidence in favor of intercourse with departed human beings, and the eminence and high intelligence of a large number of the witnesses, have compelled the opponents of Spiritualism to admit the facts, but while doing so they enlarge upon the "*dangers*," and declare, as did a reverend gentleman recently, that "*the very fact of seeking communion with the departed leaves people open to evil influences and tends to make them slaves of crafty spirits.*"

Difficulties there undoubtedly are; but the dangers are more often imaginary than real. Too frequent experiments, too great excitement, and too exclusive thought regarding the phenomena may, with unbalanced persons, disturb the mind, and even endanger health, but reasonable people will avoid such excesses. In this realm, as everywhere else, the best safeguard against harm is pure intention, circumspect action, and moderation.

If Not, Why Not?

Surely, those who declare that only evil spirits influence mediums forget that they also tell us that "*the wicked are in hell!*" How, then, can they be here upon earth, free to deceive those who "*seek*" for truth, and "*knock*" at the door of the other world.

If the way is open for tricky spirits, surely it is also open for wise and well-intentioned ones—if not, why not?

Are we to believe that angels and good spirits are shut up in heaven, too much engrossed in their own joys to think of us in our sorrows; or is our Father in heaven so callous or so careless that He leaves us to be the sports of fiends?

Sources of Power

It is strange that preachers who confess faith should so constantly appeal to fear! They have tried to make us afraid of God, of the devil, of eternal punishment, and now, while admitting the spirit origin of the manifestations, they raise the cry "*beware*," and talk as if they believe that the after-death world is entirely given over to evil.

Surely there are more good people than bad on the other side, and the way of return must be, at the least, as open to our loving friends as it is to tricky evil spirits! Knowledge and love give power to both worlds, and it can

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never be unlawful for the angels to do good, to wipe away the mourner's tears, and protect their beloved ones on earth from evil.

If these faithless preachers of fear really believed that "*God is in His Heaven*," they would also believe "*that all's right with the world*," and they would welcome the evidences of spirit return which bring "*life and immortality to light.*"

The admonition to "*try the spirits*" is as imperative now as of old. Investigation does not bring them—they are about us always—it merely makes us aware of their presence.

Those who do not study Spiritualism are not exempt from spirit influences; the "*ministering*" ones and "*the adversaries*" are ever around us like a "*cloud of witnesses*," and it is better that we should know that fact than go blindly and ignorantly on, for then, and then only, can we know how to protect ourselves from evil and also how to "*entertain angels!*"

"Undue Influence"

That one mind can obtain undue influence over another is now generally admitted, and we need not go to the spirit world for instances of such domination—they are common enough in this world if we have eyes to see. The very "*copy-book*" maxims of our youth indicate the fact—"Evil communications corrupt good morals"; "*A man is known by the company he keeps*," etc.

The successful salesman or commercial traveler frequently exercises this hypnotic influence quite unconsciously and legitimately; while the "*confidence trick*" man, who fleeces his unwary victim, illegitimately employs the same power.

They both soothe and surprise their subjects, gaining their consent before they can realize the situation, and, being aroused, become positive enough to exercise their will power in opposition.

Many a marriage has been solemnized in which one of the contracting parties was fascinated, psychologized, or hypnotized by the dominating influence which was unduly exerted by the other, and much misery might be avoided if young people of both sexes were taught the probability of such experiences and how to guard against being misled.

Is It Dangerous?

The student will sooner or later meet with the objection that it is "*dangerous to seek to develop mediumship.*" That there are "*personating, tricky, disorderly, and evil spirits*"; and, further, "*as it is difficult to decide when those who communicate are honorable and trustworthy, it is best to leave the whole subject alone.*"

To this we reply, the same objection may be raised against intercourse with people on this side. Is it not often difficult to decide who among one's acquaintances are honorable and trustworthy? so much so, in fact, that in certain foods one is almost tempted to emulate *Diogenes*, and set out to hunt for an honest man!

But we have to take people as they are, and try to understand them, and then we realize that most of them are good, well-meaning, and sincere. Everyone has his limitations, and "*to err is human*"; but when we "*try the spirits*"

(Continued Page 3, Col. 1)



# SPIRITUALISM DANGEROUS?

## OF COURSE NOT!

(Continued from Page 2, Col. 5)

(embodied), we generally find that they are not as black as their enemies paint them, nor as white as their admirers depict them.

In other words, they are human beings. If we deal with spirit people in the same natural and sensible way, and treat them as we do the people we meet with here, we learn that though some of them are thoughtless, mischievous, and at times, pretentious, the majority of those who manifest their presence differ very little from the people who live around us on this side.

### The Law of Attraction

Spirits are attracted to those persons with whom they can establish sympathetic relations upon either the physical, affectional, or psychical planes. Although animated by the best intentions, it is possible for them to injuriously affect those whom they love.

In their extreme anxiety to make their presence known, and to console their loved ones, they may attach themselves too closely to those who are susceptible to their influence, and cause the sensitives to experience sensations which may be mistakenly regarded as injurious.

It does not follow that because a sensitive shakes and feels peculiar sensations and impulses, that these phenomena are of necessity due to the operations of incarnate intelligences. Very much that is attributed to the influence of obsessing spirits may be explained upon purely physiological grounds.

Many people do not understand, and are not prepared for, the natural cravings and demands which inevitably arise within them, and they suffer great distress of mind in consequence of their ignorance regarding their own personality.

### Early Unfoldment

Sensitives are apt to regard these inclinations and tendencies as due to the influence of the devil; or, if they have learned a little of mediumship, they find a scapegoat in "obsessing spirits," instead of studying human physiology.

Furthermore, in the early stages of their development mediums generally experience strange feelings and much mental and nervous excitement. The unusual activity and the curious sensations that are induced by the influence of the spirits upon them, together with the element of uncertainty, not unmixed with fear, consequent upon the newness of the stirrings and impulses that are aroused in them, tend to unsettle the sensitives and cause them to imagine that the spirits wish them to do or say things which are in reality due to their own disturbed conditions.

It is therefore necessary that they should guard themselves

against becoming too much engrossed or too enthusiastic, lest they should be carried away by their own desires.

### True Mediumship

It is frequently asserted by non-Spiritualists that mediumship leads to insanity, but experience shows that it more often saves people from the lunatic asylum by explaining the nature and causes of their perplexing sensations and teaching them how to acquire self-control.

True mediumship does not consist in abject passivity and self-surrender to a dominating mind, but it involves the cultivation of the spiritual faculties and the exaltation of the consciousness until the sensitive acquires the positive power to receive or reject impressions or influences that may impinge upon his psychic nature.

The strong yearnings experienced by the bereaved who sigh

"For the touch of a vanished hand  
And the sound of a voice that is still,"

are frequently selfish and tend to hold the departed to the earth-conditions, thus setting up vibrations which may prove painful alike to the spirit and the mourner.

### Culture Brings Pain and Pleasure

The opening of the avenues of spiritual perception and the quickening of the responsiveness of his inner self to psychic conditions, introduce the sensitive into a new realm of impulses, intuitions and experiences. The influences of places and people on this side, as well as on the other, impinge upon him and he grows conscious of sights, sounds, and sensations which he can neither name, account for, nor interpret.

Like an Aeolian harp, that is stirred by passing vibrations, he may be responsive to the breath of love, or the gust of hate, the breeze of pure desire or the storm of passion.

These subtle "sensings," and their registration in his psychic consciousness, sometimes disturb, perplex, and annoy him, and in

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### SPIRITUALIST EDITOR



Psychic Observer

FREDERICK E. TYLER, Editor of the "Spiritual Guide," a monthly Canadian Spiritualist Magazine, Toronto, Ontario; lecturer and one of the outstanding leaders of the movement in The Great Dominion.

He attended the first annual convention of The Federation of Spiritualist Churches at Joplin, Missouri, last October where he met Rev. Bert L. Welsh, editor of Chimes, an American monthly Spiritualist Journal and the editor of Psychic Observer.

the rough and ready way of finding an easy solution for difficult problems, he attributes them to evil spirits, but does not explain them nor truly interpret their significance.

The training of the eye and ear to distinguish the shades of color and the nice gradations in sound, and the cultivation of the artistic power of attention to, and appreciation of, harmony, necessarily lay the individual open to the liability of being painfully affected by discords and inharmonies.

The sensitive may expect to have to pay the same penalty for his development until he learns how to become master of his power and inhibit all discords; to shut off, and out, those "suggestions" and influences which rasp and injure him, while he invites those which are congenial and spiritually beneficial.

### Cast Out Fear-thoughts

Fear hath torments, and the dread of the unknown is a sign of weakness born of ignorance. When we hold aloft the lamp of knowledge we fearlessly tread the path. Spectres grim and devils dark disappear when he can see the realities of the spirit. Fear has caused many poor souls to conjure up phantoms with which they have tortured themselves, cringing in terror where they should have been bold and confident.

Traditional theology with its Satan and his emissaries has been responsible for a great deal of the insanity and for many of the hysterical hallucinations under which so many sufferers have broken down; and there is danger, unless they guard themselves against the error, that unthinking and irrational people who dabble with Spiritualism will transfer their fear of the Devil to fear of obsessing spirits.

To one lady who had an idea that a living person had exerted an evil influence over her, but who subsequently discovered that she was mistaken, and then attributed her feelings to an incarnate individual, we felt constrained to point out that, while it was possible that a spirit was influencing her, she had, by her ignorance and her fears, attached too much importance to the sensations she experienced, and had imagined that they were far worse and more uncommon than they really were.

She had, in fact, given a domi-

nating suggestion to herself, and, while anxious for relief, she confessed by her fears what she denied with her words. She thus perpetuated the very conditions she deplored, and intensified her own sufferings.

Victims of auto-suggestion are seldom in the condition of body or mind to understand their feelings, or to rise superior to the conditions that they have induced. If they could only see their folly, and realize how weak of will and infirm in purpose and principle they have been, they would speedily overcome their infatuation.

But they think about and dilate upon their trouble, their feelings, their danger, and crave the sympathy of their friends, until "trifles light as air" assume great importance, and purely natural subjective states are regarded as evidences of the malignant purpose of an unseen enemy.

### Not Evil Because Imperfect

We have elsewhere pointed out that many difficulties have to be surmounted on both sides before clear and definite intercourse with spirit people can be enjoyed, and therefore allowance must be made for mistakes, failures, and misunderstandings.

Imperfect or inaccurate communications are not evil, nor the work of obsessing spirits or devils. It is so easy to misunderstand when both parties are groping in the dark that the wonder is, not that we get so few good and true messages, but that we get so many!

"The intelligent study by mediums of the laws of association and of the conditions of mediumship will lead to a more enlightened exercise of the powers of will by which they can hold themselves free from all influences except those to which they desire to yield.

It will be helpful to remember that spirits do not oust a man from his own body and take possession of his brain and personality, to use or abuse it at their own will and pleasure, whether he is agreeable or not.

### All Types of Spirits

On the contrary, spirit influence is exerted upon a sensitive in the same manner as the mesmerist or hypnotist operates upon his subject; and while unthinking persons may heedlessly welcome any kind of influence in their eager desire to become mediums, and thus run the risk of being acted upon by undesirable spirits, they have the power to break all such associations if they are determined to gain their freedom.

That there are spirits who sometimes "impersonate," and seek to pass themselves off as, the friends of the sitters, we have had proof on several occasions; but they invariably get "bawled out" if the investigators are observant and

ROBERTA COLDREN DYER  
3411 Gregory Avenue  
Wilmette, Illinois  
MEDIUM HEADS  
MICHIGAN KIWANIS CLUB



Psychic Observer

REV. JOHN W. BUNKER, recently appointed President of The Kiwanis Club, Eaton Rapids, Michigan. His appointment was unanimous.

Rev. Bunker is a lecturer, teacher, mental, direct-voice and apport medium; Presiding Clergyman for The Spiritualist Episcopal Church with headquarters at Eaton Rapids.

During the summer months, July and August, he conducts his spiritual work—classes and semi-private demonstrations of psychic phenomena at Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp, Chesterfield, Indiana. He also serves a Spiritualist affiliated church for his organization at Lansing, Michigan.

careful, and they are by no means as numerous or as evilly disposed as some people imagine.

That there are spirits who "play up" to the weaknesses and flatter the vanity of those to whom they communicate; that they give glowing assurances of the good things that they will perform bye-and-bye, and profess to be some of the "great ones" of the past, is equally true.

### No Set Rule

"People dearly love a lord," and this amiable weakness is fully realized by the jokers on "the other side"—but the fault does not wholly rest with them! Their too-confiding subjects are in the main responsible for their own mystification and misleading. They are so anxious to be guided by some "eminent" person who will be to them an "authority," that they practically invite pretenders who "fool them to the top of their bent." This does not apply to all cases of real or supposed deception, but it does cover a large proportion of such experiences.

In many instances there is an element of self-deception—or auto-suggestion—"the wish becomes father to the thought," and the sensitive's unrestrained imaginative powers do the rest.

There are many persons outside of Spiritualism who believe that they are in direct communication with God, while others are equally as sincere and earnest in their belief that the agents of the Devil are continually tempting them—it is any wonder, then, that when

(Continued Page 11, Col. 1)

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# CARROLL SEANCE

Only Members of  
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Were Present

(Continued from Page 1, Col. 3)  
become possibilities when acted on by psychic laws.

At intervals during psychic manifestations, we could see forms moving up and down and back and forth through the opening inside the cabinet. These looked like the heads of small persons, which seemed alive. It was explained to me that they were like statues formed from psychoplasm, or ectoplasm, as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and others named it. The forms are lifeless, and photographs of them, seen through a microscope, show them to look like wax models partly dissolved. Sometimes the facial expressions are somewhat disfigured.

## Rare Phenomena

Materialized hands were then seen. They appeared luminous and were moving about. Then fingers appeared, and several were seen to pass through the black drape in the cabinet. (See picture, this page). Then the medium asked four persons to come up to the cabinet to be touched by the materialized hands.

Two ladies and two men did this, and each in turn had their hands touched as they placed them on the rail that formed the opening in the cabinet. Each person said they felt the hand warm, and then cold when Dr. Carroll asked that the temperature be changed.

At this point, Dr. Carroll asked the light to be turned on and announced a ten-minute intermission.

It should be said that during the first part of the seance Dr. Carroll asked for full light several times.

## Member Attests

At these intervals, he had some of the sitters look inside the cabinet. He wanted all to be sure that there was no one, no living person, hiding back of the curtain. Furthermore, he asked several to see and make sure that all three, including himself, in front of the curtain were holding hands. After all the sitters were satisfied, he said that the reason for this action on his part was to prove that everything was in order.

During the intermission, all the sitters retired to the large reception room and discussed what they had seen with great enthusiasm.

Talking with the man who held the trumpet, I asked him about the power he felt. He confirmed

the fact that it was so terrific, it almost pulled him off his feet.

Returning to the room for the second part of the seance we saw that all things were removed from the cabinet and placed on a table in front of the sitters. This part was held in total darkness, with neither the medium nor the ladies wrapped in the curtain.

## Direct-Voices Heard

A member of Psychists was asked by the medium to sit and join hands with him, and the lady held his hands all through this part of the seance. All other members joined hands, and sang when, all at once, the trumpet could be seen moving back and forth, up and down, and from one sitter to another. The luminous paint made it clearly visible, sometimes it was up by the ceiling and other times down by the sitters.

The guitar played melodies as we sang. Several times the bell was rung. We could hear the music box being wound up and then play its tune until it ran down. Once both guitar and violin played together.

Then voices began to speak through the trumpet. First several of the medium's guides spoke, greeting sitters and giving instructions. Then individual sitters had relatives, in spirit, greet them in

very clear voices through the trumpet — answering questions and commenting on personal matters.

Every person present, I believe, experienced spirit voices, speaking to them through the trumpet that evening. Fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters and others who had passed away from this world spoke again.

Noted Welsh Spiritualist



George OWEN

Voices, said to be stilled by death, were able to speak to those dear to them in the quiet of that seance by means of Dr. Carroll's psychic powers.

In all, some 35 persons spoke to us that evening, and in nearly every instance the person speaking through the trumpet was instantly identified. Some of the voices were loud; others more subdued, still others just audible whispers.

## Independent Voices

The psychic for this impressive part of the seance, Dr. Carroll, could hear clairaudiently and so announce the names. Instantly on recognition of the name by some sitter, the person would talk with that sitter through the trumpet.

Two voices spoke together in

## Dematerialization At a Carroll Seance



Psychic Observer

The picture above was taken several years ago at a test seance in the PSYCHIC OBSERVER Seance Room at Lily Dale, N. Y., by a non-spiritualist commercial photographer, Jack Hand, Chicago, Illinois.

The two faces visible below are not materialized but are the heads of two Erie, Pa. ladies who sat in front of the curtain, facing the audience. The lady to the right was holding both of Dr. Carroll's hands. Dr. Carroll, the medium (not shown in this picture) was sitting to the right in front of the curtain.

To the left, is Juliette Ewing Pressing extending her right arm, with her finger tips touching the two materialized fingers projecting THROUGH the black curtain.

To avoid confusion, the reader must bear in mind that the above picture was not taken at the seance described on this page. It is published as evidence of the type of mediumship demonstrated by Dr. J. J. Carroll.

## EDITOR'S NOTE

In the next issue of *Psychic Observer*, GEORGE OWEN will describe his impressions and give his conclusions on THE CARROLL SEANCE, described on this and on page one.

words by direct-voice from her in Welsh at an outstanding seance in London in 1916. She said that she was constantly watching my endeavors here, touching my face with a motherly hand, and commenting on some other aspects of my struggle that we call mortal life, then wishing me a fervent good-bye.

Once when a person was speaking through the trumpet another spoke at the same time without it. Those close to the trumpet said that the voice outside it was clear and distinct. Thus two from the Beyond spoke at the same time.

## Medium—A Clairvoyant

Of course, spirit voices can be heard without the trumpet but the trumpet aids by amplifying the voice. When my mother spoke to me in London she did not use the trumpet; she spoke in my ear in what was almost a whisper.

While the different spirits were speaking, the guitar played several times. A glass of water was on the table, and a voice said through the trumpet that he would give one of the ladies a drink from it. This was done, the glass lifted from the table and given to her to drink. Others felt splashes of water on their faces.

A light flashed very brightly in the dark several times around the medium's head. This resembled a flash of lightning that we see in a disturbed sky at night during a thunderstorm.

After the voices ended through an exhaustion of the power, Dr. Carroll gave a number of clairvoyant descriptions. Nearly all were recognized at once.

## Two-hour Seance

A voice then said through the trumpet—it was one of the medium's guides — that the seance must end as the power had gone. After singing "Abide With Me," and reciting the Lord's Prayer, the seance ending exactly at 12 midnight.

Thus ended a memorable seance just a few blocks from the throbbing center of New York City. Yes, the gulf of death was bridged for a while, but some day, we will all join them when our life here is over and then we, too,

may desire to return to our friends on earth and add our message of comfort by saying "We live—there are no dead!"

xxx

When publishing an account of a seance where this type of phenomena is demonstrated, the editors are invariably asked numerous questions relative to the exact nature of the test conditions imposed upon the medium. Serious inquirers may contact MARBRA BROOKS, manager of Psychists, Inc., by letter or in person. Names of the members attending this seance can be obtained. The room in which the seance was conducted can also be examined. The integrity of GEORGE OWEN, author of this article, is unquestioned.

DR. J. J. CARROLL has been scheduled to conduct another series of experiments in psychic science sometime in June. These experimental seances, for sincere students of psychic science, are not open to the public . . . only members (in good standing) of Psychists, Inc. are permitted to attend.—ED.

## The Mediumship of

# G. RALPH CEPPI

By R. G. PRESSING

Quite some time ago, February 20th, to be exact, I was privileged to witness a seance conducted by G. Ralph Ceppi at the Taft Hotel, New York City.

The seance was held at midnight. Each person submitted written questions after the medium was blindfolded.

Those present were Margaret Akanna, Syracuse, N. Y.; Verna Brooks, New York City; Rosanna

oo



REV. G. RALPH CEPPI

He is a Doctor of Philosophy; conducts spiritualist services and demonstrates mental mediumship at his Psychic Studio in the City of Syracuse, N. Y., 2507 James St.

oo

Myers, Syracuse, N. Y.; Marion Williams, New York City; the medium and myself.

Several moments after the blindfold was tightened, the medium was entranced, and his principal collaborator, who manifests as a young girl, proceeded to conduct the seance which lasted 28 minutes.

The medium's control was able to contact spirit people who were able to prove their identity in various ways—sometimes by description, sometimes by pertinent information, sometimes by the direct answering of written questions, and other times by initials, which were placed and understood by those for whom the messages were intended.

This phase of mediumship was new to several of the sitters. In one instance evidence of supernatural power was convincing only when the little spirit guide was able to tell and identify the number and color of pencils held in the hand of one of the sitters.

Mr. Ceppi left for Syracuse, N. Y., the following day, having completed his lecture engagement at Psychists, Inc. early in the week.

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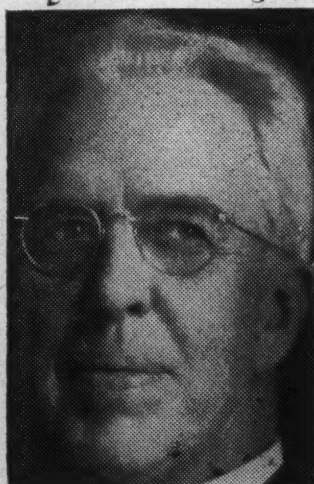
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(P-164)



# A Widow's Mite Why I Know the Dead Live

As you journey along life's pathway  
These experiences may help you

## I AM SATISFIED READ WHY

By  
MRS. EDWIN G. NIESS-WANER  
210 Garfield Place  
Brooklyn (15), N. Y.

How well do we all remember that childish expression heard so many, many times — "Let's pretend"! We experienced such enthusiasm in its utterance, and found real stimulation for our imaginative, youthful minds in the prospects it seemed always to suggest.

I look back upon that period of my life as a glowing and joyful one, and was born into a refined, Christian environment which lay in what one might call a "northern-southern" state.

I have, by way of introduction, walked through this earth life just seventy-four years. I have, through education and countless experiences, discovered many useful things. One realization gained transcends them all—that the more knowledge we obtain, the more we find there is to acquire.

So let us say that this article is to be taken as my "widow's mite" by way of contribution to that great mass of proof already recorded.

Indeed, I feel very humble in submitting it—but as it is INDIVIDUAL experience that counts in this great and growing Crusade, let us give thanks that this very collection of data may mean the liberation of many minds!

In Psychic Research there is NO PRETENSE. FACT is enthroned. Let us at this point consider the value of imagination: that charming world we, as children, lived in. Indeed, we may always call upon it in human affairs, and claim for it most definite recognition as the veritable blue print of every earthly achievement!

### A Serious Study

But when seriously interested persons take their place as potential investigators of Psychic Phenomena, and stand before its great wealth of ESTABLISHED FACT, they—with powers of critical analysis, realize as never before, that in obtaining INDIVIDUAL PROOF of the PERSISTENCE of PERSONALITY, there is no avenue for imagination to play upon. NONE WHATEVER.

At the very threshold of investigation one should pause. Ascertain your MOTIVE for entering the serious study of spirit communication. For instance, ask yourself if you would do anything DISHONORABLE? Long ago, I learned the tremendous value of one's MOTIVE.

If it has been your motive to attend a Spiritualist gathering—"just for fun"; or if you have ever said—after attending such a meeting—that it was "just imagination,"—just a matter of "pretending" to know, then pause again. At this point, realize that God's inexorable LAW will send back to you exactly what you send out.

Only the SINCERE, thorough,

steadfast research, trial, test — indefinitely repeated, if need be, are the ones permitted to enter the *White Gates of Psychic Knowledge*.

And now, let us look at the procession of liberated students of this great Truth who, having definitely established for themselves the FACT of NO DEATH in the UNIVERSE, find themselves filled with flaming zeal to "tell the world."

### A Master of Tact

To those of my readers who have arrived recently at this stage of their experience, I would indicate the RED LIGHT that spells STOP! For there is zeal and there is mistaken zeal.

Although our Lord was possessed of ALL KNOWLEDGE, He seldom took the initiative when imparting it! Have you, or you, or you ever considered what a master of TACT He was? And, as we are supposed to be analytical people, let us define that word, Tact.

Isn't its very foundation KINDNESS? Isn't it just simply putting oneself in the "other fellow's" place?

How vividly do I remember the actual assaults upon my personal freedom of thought, by an over-zealous friend, who proved her lack of terminal facilities in "just offering" to others what she felt they should know and act upon!

### A New Thought Student

Her "suggestions," her actual craze to GUIDE OTHERS was her OWN stumbling block! She failed to realize that the most scientific thing we can practice, in every walk of life, is permitting others to do their OWN thinking. In relating my reactions and experiences in Psychic Research, they are not given with any degree of soap-box enthusiasm to "convert" you, rather they are given in a spirit of quiet INWARD joy. Should my own story carry any appeal for you, the work would be the Father's—not mine.

Am I a New Thought student? Yes, indeed! I have been emancipated from the old, out-worn spiritual conceptions since the Spring of 1912; and apropos of this, would you like a SOUND TIP that was given to me?

It is a veritable spring-board toward spiritual progress. It is not a question of TIME in which we have studied—but what-and-how-much - SPIRITUAL UNDER-

STANDING we imbibed IN that time—that COUNTS.

A student of *Psychic Research*, on the one hand, might gain absolute FACT for himself with amazing speed; another, on the other hand, may be YEARS wholly satisfying himself that he, finally, HAS the KNOWLEDGE.

### There Are "Detours"

Each will be gratified, I am thinking, where no sense of haste or personal pride has entered the mind. To have had the ONE GOAL OF KNOWING, minus any consideration of "detours," brings results. When our Lord walked the earth with His disciples, who were steeped in ignorance, is there any record that He chided them for their "stupidity"?

We know He KNEW they would unfold not "in time"—but in actual experience; and when He thought they had assimilated some of this, He did reproach them for their lack of faith.

Does this suggest certain comments you may have heard from some, when they had been privileged to attend a seance? . . . And now, may I tell my own story quite informally?

My forebears and the ones of my parents' generation, were all identified with a Protestant denomination, and although people of refinement and culture, it is true that in their day laymen were not supposed to think outside the beaten track of Theology. It just "wasn't done"!

When I reached the ripe old age of fourteen, I considered it too time to "join the church". I, too, wanted to "go to heaven" because my baby brother was there. From an early age my immediate surroundings had great effect upon me, so I, too, found the idea and "preaching" of golden streets and jasper and jewels held great appeal for me. I would "join the church" and GO THERE! !

### What Christians Think

The gesture, as you see, was entirely selfish! But it was made. Yes, when I was twelve, my baby brother (ten years between us) "died," and it was life's first tragic event for me.

My father, a radiant Christian and a physician of the town, held "peculiar ideas" about death, so we five children thought, for often when coming in from his professional calls, he would smile—when hanging up his hat in the hall, and call out, softly, "Here I AM, son! Here's Papa!" Kiss us

### N.S.A. MISSIONARY



Psychic Observer

ALBERT E. VAUGHN-STRODE, lecturer, teacher, trance and mental medium; 419 East Maple St., Enid, Oklahoma; Missionary for the National Spiritualist Association.

His lecture schedule during the months of May and June included the spiritualist churches in Fort Worth, Texas, sponsored by Rev. C. L. Sharp and Rev. Lena De Voe; Beaumont, Texas—sponsored by Pearl Davis; Indianapolis, Indiana—sponsored by Dr. Ben and Dollie Clark.

Mr. Vaughn-Strode will serve Lily Dale Assembly during July and August. He will conduct morning services at Forest Temple daily at 9:30 A. M.; deliver several lectures in the auditorium; and supervise his own study class for one week at Assembly Hall.

all and tell us Robert hadn't "gone anywhere." He stood alone in his belief—though my mother loyally sympathized.

In the march of events, I passed my twentieth birthday and had "come out" in the usual way of southern girls of my time. In the midst of the gayety and wholly care-free life, my eldest brother passed away, and although "my favorite" and I was grief-stricken past expression, I was also filled with fear.

### Resurrection Day!

To this hour, I can visualize myself standing in a front room of our homestead, and looking across the big front parlor to where my brother's body lay dressed in his evening clothes. HORROR filled my mind! I was the ONLY one who did not go in and talk about him, and his going.

Then, shock followed horror. After his internment, my eldest sister announced the mistake that held no parallel in our family history: our brother was buried, we learned with actual consternation, with the foot of his casket to the West!

Our whole family was thrown into sorrowful commotion: it MUST BE RECTIFIED! For how, pray, when "rising" on the Resurrection Morn, could he face the sun, when in that position? It wasn't fair to him! When those of us, to be buried near him, would be standing before the sunrise and blinking greetings to "the neighbors," HENRY would have his back to us! !

### It Must Be "Correct"

So the next day my father went with the undertaker; everything made "regular," and the family settled down . . . to mourning, my mother's heavy, crinkled crepe veil reaching to her insteps. A pall of grief hung over the homestead, where laughter had been on a hair trigger.

The social activities of my sister (two years older than I) and myself, ceased. We, also, were swathed in deepest black—minus veils. It was at this time that love had come to me and as my fiancé lived in an Eastern city, somehow I stood it. Then, when it was thought "correct" for me to "go out of mourning," we were married.

Here began "heaven on earth

for me"—the sort, in marital life, seldom noted. We always lived to ourselves: had no children, but a REAL home. Each was the other's very world. My husband used to say, happily, "We are almost as though one spirit with two bodies!"

For almost thirty-six years we knew the JOY that few ever attain. Each of us had no thought but the other's happiness and comfort. Life was perfect. Oh, yes, we had our share of "ups and downs," our losses, disappointments, etc., but what are they? Life is made up of them—married or single.

### Demonstrative Religion

After we became *New Thought* students (at first, I attended my husband's church for he was then devoted to and singing in a beautiful Protestant edifice) life was even sweeter.

We had found, at last, a religion we could demonstrate, LIVE. I pass over the rest—coming up to that day, in June of 1929, when he had to go.

Meantime, all of my family connection, but one, had passed on: friends of years standing, we so loved, had also gone. But not until my husband's passing was my world depopulated.

### Need For Religion

I had MY RELIGION — yes: and but for it, and the understanding I had gained, humbly, but surely, I doubt if I could have kept my sanity.

My husband's profession of engineering had, a few years before, taken him out to the Colorado radium fields; then on to Wyoming, where relatives lived on their several ranches, and it had been his hope to take me out for visits among them. This is why I was invited there in 1931.

At the conclusion of my acceptance of their kind hospitality, I decided to rent a small, furnished apartment in the nearby town and enjoy the delightful climate over the summer. I was alone — from choice, and lived very quietly.

### My Husband's Voice

As thoughts of my husband were with me constantly, there was nothing unusual in my mind as I retired for the night on August 6th. Since childhood I have always been able to get to sleep (Continued on Page 10, Col. 1)

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## A Widow's Mite

(Continued from Page 9, Col. 5)

quickly and to sleep soundly: so nothing disturbed me UNTIL I heard my husband's voice calling me by the little pet name only he and I knew!

As I regained consciousness, it was as if I had been awakened by a quick knock on my door—so that I felt startled and instinctively raised up; but if a huge volume such as a pulpit Bible, or a large dictionary had been laid on my chest, the weight I FELT at that instant could not have been more pronounced.

### I Was Thrilled!

And in the seconds in which this realization was flashing across my mind, my husband called me THREE TIMES! His voice was strangely husky (I now know the reason why), and came from the side of my bed—as though he were standing there in the very flesh.

The weight on my chest so oppressed me, that leaning on my elbow seemed an effort—I, always called "the definition of Energy!" This, coupled with my consternation, served to keep me speechless, though THRILLED past expressing to you. Up, I put on the light.

Through tear-filled eyes I saw it was ten minutes past two; you may guess how much I slept, the rest of that memorable night—for it was my FIRST psychic experience; and, by the way, it was something I just COULDN'T tell anybody. I knew what would be said to me, in all kindness, of course, but my orthodox listeners would have pronounced it "merely imagination!"

### Sure of Herself

NO; that should remain a secret between my husband and myself, for I KNEW, then, he was indeed in closest touch with me. Then I immediately began to read every psychic book I could lay my hands on, and this program continued through the months after my return East, that autumn. But strangely enough, attending a SEANCE had never even occurred to me!

It was September, 1932, that a mutual friend, in California, put me in touch with the late Bessie Clark Drouet—author of "STATION ASTRAL," and she was having regular weekly seances in their lovely pent-house, with a noted DIRECT-VOICE medium in attendance—each meeting made up of those who had almost "waited in line" to be there!

Before I could be "among those present," I went on a trip to southern Pennsylvania—armed with Mrs. Drouet's book which she had given me at our first introduction. She was cordial, kind and lovely and SO SURE OF HERSELF, I felt a keener interest than before in things psychic.

### The "S.P.R." at N.Y.C.

Lack of space here is an imperative reason to dash over to the autumn of five years later... my personal affairs having prevented, until then, any further step toward what was my keen desire to investigate.

At a lecture in the rooms of the New York Psychic Research Society, where I knew not one soul, I met a most congenial spirit in the very row I seemed led to find a seat. I had come to know that there are NO "accidents" in our lives, when we have placed them completely in the hands of the Father.

With this attractive woman, friendship was soon established

and it was she who suggested I accompany her to another seance. And so it was that I found myself, after the introductions to about twelve or fifteen sitters—in the seance room where tall glass vases holding cut flowers, stood on the floor among the trumpets.

### Absolutely No Fear

The medium, a soul of poise and good nature, took her seat in the center of the room, gave us instructions and asked who among us were attending a seance for the FIRST TIME. I was one.

After the preliminary prayer and song, the trumpets sailed above our heads and voices came through to several people, one spirit being that of my friend's sister—to whom I was introduced! WAS I THRILLED! We chatted a little and then, later on, I felt a distinct nudge against my knee: then, my arm: I heard a GASPING sound as though the name Nannie was trying to be enunciated.

The exhaled "breaths" made me say I was sorry, but I knew nobody named Nannie. The trumpet fell across my insteps. I FELT ABSOLUTELY NO FEAR. I was alert and intensely sympathetic.

In a few minutes the nudges were more insistent: they seemed uncanny! I said, "Hello"—and came the response, "It's NATALIE!"

### My Husband Speaks!

My sister—who was two years my senior, and whose marriage had so disappointed and embittered her, she—when the family just could NOT see her husband through her lens, absented herself from us ALL for eighteen years, or so!

Would that I could give some details, but if the very Apostle Peter had stood there, I could not have been more AMAZED.

Every little perfectly remembered characteristic of speech was in it as she cheerfully and lovingly talked with me! It had been myself who "hunted down" details of her sudden passing, in a Philadelphia Hospital, after a newspaper clipping of it had been enclosed me in a letter from SAN DIEGO! I possessed, too, a fine letter from her husband—from whom she was legally separated.

At the close of our very short talk, I said, "Oh, Natalie, I am SO glad you came"—and her thrilled answer was, "And I am OVERJOYED!" and the trumpet fell at my feet.

IF, this hour, I had NO OTHER

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The Mariottis intend to make Brooklyn their home in which city they will start a church and conduct regular classes and healing services.



TO OPEN CENTER



PROOF of the PERSISTENCE OF PERSONALITY, my friends, THAT WOULD SATISFY me completely. For there is a moment when you JUST KNOW.

Later, my mother, too, came through—calling me in that sweet speaking voice I would know anywhere, "MARY?" Eagerly I asked her if my husband was with them, and she said, "Oh, yes, and he is trying SO hard to speak to you, but is having difficulty."

Later HIS voice came through saying "It's EDWIN" . . . and I could have collapsed from JOY. The columns of "Psychic Observer" are not elastic—nor is your patience: so may I just add that while he was unable to say much right then, he came through later in an amazing way: and DOUBT was the only thing that was "dead". I was within "the Gates"!

### I KNEW I Knew

The psychic gift I know I was born with (and which my husband unfailingly "went by") was now being increased! THRILL OF THRILLS! And when I had attended lectures by Arthur Ford (or message bearing meetings) and had attended smaller "message" seances—a heart condition developed to prevent my "running up and down subway stairs"—as my doctor put it: for I indeed had been going about "like a girl of twenty-five."

Anyhow, I KNEW THAT I KNEW. I WAS POSSESSED OF ALL THE PROOF I should ever need: so I felt reconciled over giving up the night trips. I had joyfully arrived where I could say to my heart—"I'm ready whenever you are!"

And oh, when I shall have daily tried to do the Father's will, as HE leads me to see it, I will know that GLAD HOUR when I can join all my loved ones, in the glorious UNSEEN—when I shall have just stepped out of this body I now manifest in, to GO ON LIVING—LIVING! . . . War—and RED CROSS work! I, like countless millions of women of all ages, BUSY with VICTORY in view!

### Touch of a Hand

And in this interim, I moved to an apartment in the home of Spiritualists! Though I had not dreamed it. (MORE of the "Kindly Lights" leading) I went there in September of 1942—with no remotest idea that it held an experience for me, THE BLESSING of my lonely life.

I saw the householders just occasionally, but it was good to know they were emancipated, like myself, from former misconceptions! Time marched on and it was the night of February 11th, 1943, that I turned out my light at eleven o'clock, feeling very sleepy

from long reading. I lay on my right side and was, as always, in deep slumber . . . and then my slumber was suddenly broken by the pressure of MY HUSBAND'S SLENDER HANDS, one at either side of my waist line! (Above and below where I was relaxed upon the inner-mattress.)

### I Saw My Husband!

Why I was not simply galvanized with TERROR, I do not know to THIS HOUR. It will be an enigma to me as long as I live: but just as a drowsy baby (accustomed to its mother's touch, can be turned over, its covers adjusted—and KNOW THE TOUCH) just so did I KNOW MY HUSBAND'S characteristic one.

My eyes wide open, in a twinkling, and staring into the darkness (I like to sleep in)—all of it happening in seconds, I felt the dear, familiar NUDGES at my shoulders, I had known through the years, as his call in any emergency.

It seemed an eternity until I could turn and glance over my left shoulder, STILL THOUGH feeling NO FEAR . . . (wonder of wonders, to me) and there I SAW MY HUSBAND standing, it seemed, about three feet from the floor near the side of the bed toward the foot—fully dressed even to his beloved soft hat (I proudly said always he knew "how to wear") and wearing tweed, that he especially affected.

### Proof Positive

His eyes, "as blue as the skies in Florida," his skin absolutely radiant, in its fine texture (a family characteristic) SMILING down at me as though he would burst into joyful greeting—the picture of GLOWING HEALTH! NO MEDIUM within miles of that house. But the vibrations were SO GOOD, in it!

He had stood, seemingly with his legs in a vague, cloudy, vaporous atmosphere, the rest of his form AS IN LIFE ON EARTH—the VITALITY he had always had, even more pronounced. And then

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he—was GONE. (It was 2:45 A. M.)

Some sweet day he will tell me he was "just tickled pink" at MY FACIAL EXPRESSION! ! (I laugh, with him, in spirit, as I think so often of it) for you may know I FEEL HIS NEARNESS, at times, in a most beautiful way.

### Sublime Comfort

GOD HAS BLESSED ME! I have HEARD and I have SEEN: my goal is ascending spiritual progress, LIVING THE LIFE every day, with God's help, and oh, how I look forward to PASSING, truly—"LIFE'S GREATEST ADVENTURE!"

Have I actually failed to say what all this PROOF means to me? Well, take it, as a compliment to your intellectual grasp! Not only have I tried to set forth my spiritual aspirations but also my inmost convictions. How can you, then, infer anything from the recital other than the fact of my abiding, sublime COMFORT!

You see that I am quite a novice in the matter of frequent attendance at seances: that two of my experiences were wholly apart from mediums: and while the actual record of what I have PROVEN is relatively short, placed side by side with so many, many others—I feel about it as I have said I do, anent spiritual understanding in connection with TIME.

### I Am Satisfied

It is not that one has "studied" Truth for twenty, thirty, or forty years—or just one year. Certain students with CLEAR THOUGHT can sometimes IMBIBE SPIRITUALLY more in twelve months, than slower understanding can assimilate in twelve years, just so, as I see it, can even ONE Psychic experience serve as everlasting PROOF.

As the bright columnist puts it, "I MAY BE WRONG": but it satisfies ME. Great psychic authors of great psychic books WARN us to be very, very skeptical, cautious, slow—UNTIL one's OWN "Big Moment," let us say. And that is truly SCIENCE. And we know that science is but the demonstration of FACT.

If my little bit added to stacks of proven data just makes "a lil bit MO"—and helps some novice on his way, I shall feel rewarded. You know I told you it would be simply my "widow's mite"—presented, I add, with NO PRETENSE.

THE END

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# SPIRITUALISM DANGEROUS?

## A LOGICAL ANSWER

(Continued from Page 3, Col. 5)

unbalanced people investigate Spiritualism they should go to similar extremes?

### Mediumship Not Understood

Sensitives sometimes hear unpleasant "voices," which medical men are apt to regard as purely subjective or imaginary—but they may be truly voices—those of spirit people—as spontaneous or natural clairaudience is quite as probable as natural clairvoyance or psychometry.

It may be that the inner hearing has been opened upon the lower plane of the thought-conditions of the soul realm, and the sensitive hears expressions, or senses the repulsive thoughts, that distress him, somewhat as one might be shocked by hearing the objectionable language of the *habitués* of a low public-house, or by the vulgar and brutal expressions of a group of coarse and ignorant men when passing them in the street.

There would not necessarily be any intention to offend, under such circumstances, as those people would simply be speaking in their accustomed manner. In the same way it is probable that the spirits whose voices and thoughts produce unpleasant effects upon sensitives may be unconscious of the fact that they are overheard; or may not know how to move away from them, any more than the sensitives know how to close their psychic nature so as to become unconscious of, and unresponsive to, unwelcome companions.

### Causes of Obsession

The conditions and causes which lead up to real or supposed obsession may be summed up as follows:

*Temporary association*; such as living in a haunted house or in companionship with people of a low moral tone, and being, perhaps unconsciously, subject to "suggestions" from them.

*Nervous exhaustion* and psychological depletion, resulting from too frequent and prolonged "sittings" and promiscuous seances where inharmonious conditions prevail.

*Mental concentration* by excited and continuous thought about the one subject to the exclusion of others; and indiscriminate self-surrender to "control" in the anxiety to become a medium.

*Unrestrained imagination*; the morbid pessimism which follows upon intense grief; or other "shocks" which cause mental strain, hysteria, or melancholia, or both.

*Auto-suggestion* resulting from fear and due to the misinterpretation of sensations and impulses which may be accounted for on purely physiological grounds.

*Diseased or unbalanced conditions* of body or mind; or personal habits which make excessive drain upon the vital energies and lower the moral tone of the sensitive.

We do not deny that spirits may, and sometimes do, dominate an individual, but we feel assured that in the majority of such cases, where the control obtains the mastery, there is some weakness or disease; some point of contact and similarity between the spirit and the physical, mental, moral or psychical conditions of the sensitive.\*

Those associations, however, in which the disposition and purpose

of the spirit may be called evil or malevolent are rare; and the instances in which the obsessing spirit cannot be reached by benevolent sympathies and services on the part of the sitters and the sensitive are still more rare!

In our experience we have found that in the few cases where badly disposed spirits were *really* at work, they came to gratify their spite, to mislead for revenge, or to "get even" because of some injury or fancied slight.

### Spirits Not Malicious

Spirits are sometimes very persistent. Having found someone who is sensitive, through whom they think they can reach their friends, they persevere in the most determined fashion, in spite of the objections and fears of the subject. Perhaps they are penitent, anxious to confess their faults, or follies, and to obtain forgiveness. Or they desire to convince their friends of their presence and console them, and, with such intentions in their minds, they, with a pertinacity that is distinctly human, but often very disagreeable, fasten on to the medium and will give him no rest.

Then again, when spirits who have had little or no experience seek to control sensitives, they often exert too much influence. They transfer their own conditions and desires too strongly, and, in their anxiety, fail to realize that they are acting unkindly or prejudicially towards their instruments.

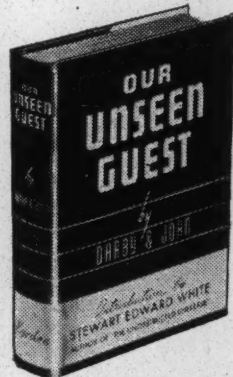
Further, as "first control experiences" are frequently of the nature of "impersonations," the sensitive who is overshadowed in that way by the memory-sphere of an unhappy, conscience-stricken soul may be excused if he rebels against such influences and misunderstands their purport.

Still, distressed sensitives have frequently obtained relief by a temporary surrender to the wishes

\* Hudson Tuttle holds that "a deficiency of will power, induced by physical conditions, rather than mental, has been the immediate cause of what is called obsession, in varying degrees from a slight inclination to complete loss of self control. . . . Unless the gateway is open, such influences cannot enter. Known or unknown, there is a weak point of attack, a physical state, more or less diseased, reflected on the mind, and making it plastic to impressions received through the lower nature."

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## Dedication Services at the MEMORIAL SPIRITUALIST SCIENCE CHURCH, St. Louis, Missouri



Psychic Observer

The picture above shows over one hundred people attending the April 8th dedication services of the Memorial Spiritualist Science Church, in their new building 3909 Russell Blvd., St. Louis, Missouri. Missouri State Spiritualist Association Secretary William R. FULLER (extreme left) presiding; to the rear left center, The Spiritualist Choral Society of St. Louis, directed by Dr. C. R. CURRAN; Seated in the front row, left to right—Rev. Mary E. ROGERS, Essie RAY, Florence FULLER, Anna SCHMITZ, Alice DAVIS.

of the control in the presence of experienced observers.

By thus ascertaining the object of the spirit; by reasoning with him; by appealing to his sympathy; and by instructing him as regards the nature of the effects he has produced upon the medium and how to proceed in future, so as to secure happier results, intelligent and observant sitters can frequently relieve the sensitive from all fear; benefit the spirit; and themselves obtain experiences of a very educational character.

Many mediums can today number among their most faithful and helpful friends in spirit life those who at first were rough, overmastering, and apparently obsessing and undesirable controls; but who, by kindness and love, were assisted and educated and afterwards became useful and trustworthy friends and co-workers.

### Three Courses of Treatment

When it is evident that a sensitive is under the influence of a spirit who either cannot or will not withdraw from the association, there is no reason for perturbation of the part of the medium or his friends. There are, as we have indicated, three courses open to them in dealing with such a case—

1st. Try to ascertain who the spirit is, what he wishes to do, and why he persists in exercising his control over the medium. Talk to him kindly, help him, reason with him, pray for and with him, carry out his wishes as far as they are reasonable, and enlighten him to the best of your ability.

2nd. Invoke the assistance of strong, helpful, healing spirits, and call in a healer who is also a clairvoyant, or a medium who possesses the power to deal with undeveloped spirits, and build up the physical strength and the psychic nature of the sensitive and encourage him to resist and break the "spell" that has been thrown over him.

3rd. This is the most important course, because it must be followed to some extent in every case, and is the one which we have already emphasized, viz., the medium must, by determined and persistent effort of will and spiritual aspiration, learn to be confident, and possess himself, and refuse to be held in psychological captivity by, or be made the spirit and plaything of, unseen beings.

He should not surrender to the idea that he is "obsessed"; or discuss the subject too freely with others, or weakly seek the sympathy and condolences of his friends, as all such admissions and recognitions tend to strengthen the impression that he is a captive and powerless to resist.

He should not go to this, that, and the other person for advice and "cure"—the power to overcome is within. "I can and will

be free" should be his affirmation, strongly felt and boldly proclaimed, and then he will speedily say "I am free," and know that it is true.

As distance on the spirit side is more a matter of state than geography, the psychic must strive to attain a higher degree of lucidity—to get away from the plane of haunting, vicious, earthly or vindictive spirit people by rising above it, so as to be unaffected by those denser vibrations and respond to the more subtle and spiritual forces.

The purpose of development can best be served when the sensitive, by sincere thought and earnest aspiration, prepares himself for the highest and purest baptisms of spiritual illumination and learns to inflexibly hold himself independent of all conditions have those to which he voluntarily opens his consciousness for wise guidance.

### To the Pure, All Is Pure

Very much depends upon the objects entertained by the medium and the sitters, as also upon the character and intentions of the spirit who seeks to manifest his presence; but, on general lines, where people of average intelligence and rectitude seek communion with those they have known and esteemed, or loved, the results are almost invariably beneficial.

There is every reason why this should be so if the common-sense precautions are observed by keeping a level head, exercising patience, exhibiting unselfishness and sincerity; and desiring good spiritual counsel and fellowship. The rational course to follow is assuredly that of avoiding the extremes alike of credulity and sceptical incredulity, but letting the spirits do their best, and then collating the facts observed and drawing conclusions.

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will save both mediums and inquirers from many misconceptions and enable them to avoid the errors of others.

Above all, mediums should observe their own feelings, study their own experiences, try to understand and co-operate with the spirits, but never yield servile or slavish service, nor permit themselves to be swayed by flattery nor dominated by any spirit (in the circle or on the spirit side) who claims obedience, poses as an "authority," or refuses to recognize the rights of others.

### Advice to the Sensitive

Do not expect that you will be influenced by a low class of spirit people, either on this side or the other; neither should you fear any such contingency, as by so doing you will go half way to meet the very danger you dread—but in case it should happen, it is well that you should know what to do to close the avenues of your psychic self to any such unwelcome intrusions.

By brooding, introspective, sorrowful and self-pitying fear-thought people become morbid and unbalanced. Do not give way to any such tendencies.

We do not go about in terror of our lives because we know that there are scoundrels in this world—why, then, should you be cowardly and afraid because there are fools and pretenders "over there"? Remember that spirits cannot make you do anything against your determined will.

Keep body and mind pure and healthy and control your thoughts. "Fear makes cowards of us all"—the remedy is knowledge and pure purpose. You can overcome weakness and evil thoughts by substituting good strong thoughts; by cultivating an affirmative and positive mental attitude and by rising to a higher spiritual plane.

When you know that, by the exercise of your own will, you can control your psychic conditions and become soul-centered so as to prevent any unwelcome or congenial influence affecting you to your injury, you need have no fear.

### A Gospel of Cheer

Spiritualism is a gospel of glad tidings, and it should lift you above the mists of superstition and fear into the serene air of spiritual self-confidence, of faith in your own divine nature, and joyous self-possession. Obsessing influences cannot reach you or hold you when your soul is thrilling with delight and your mind is fully engaged in optimistic work for the good of humanity.

The path of mediumship is not an easy one to tread. Do not foolishly imagine that it will lead to the acquisition of knowledge, without effort and experience. It is not "spiritual attainment made easy," whereby the indolent can, by a species of substitution, wear the robes of righteousness and display the graces of exalted "guides" in lieu of their own.

It is not to be expected that the great and good souls of the higher life will have fellowship with the ignorant and frivolous, and be content to express their ideas through instruments who do not make earnest and persistent endeavors to render themselves fit for the service of such sweet and enlightened souls.

Forget yourself. Think, live, and find your joy in serving others. In the altruistic atmosphere, where self is forgotten, love and goodness are supreme. What are your woes and sufferings compared with those of the mourners of the world's burden-bearers? In helping them you will gain freedom.

THE END



# Andrew Jackson Davis Pictures

An artist's conception of

## Davis Entering the Spirit World



The picture above is a reproduction from a photograph of a framed oil painting. This mammoth painting, five by eight feet, is owned by Dr. Frank S. Bigelow and is described by him as follows: "It is an artist's conception of Davis' entry into The Spirit World. It is not a spirit picture in the sense that it was drawn by spirit hands but the artist was inspired, having seen this vision clairvoyantly."

"Two men can be seen standing in the center of the picture. The man to the left is Davis, the man to the right is HIPPOCRATES OF COS, a celebrated Greek physician born about 460 B.C. He is greeting Davis upon his entry into spirit world. In Davis' right hand is a pen—a symbol of his literary ability."

"Above the right shoulder of Hippocrates, the artist shows a man about to present Davis with the 'MAGIC STAFF.' To the left above Davis, the artist shows SWEDENBORG pronouncing the benediction at the ceremony. At the top center a child hovers over and is expressing gratitude for Davis' great work in founding the Children's Spiritualist Lyceum movement. The spirit home of Dr. Davis is shown in the upper right hand corner of this picture."

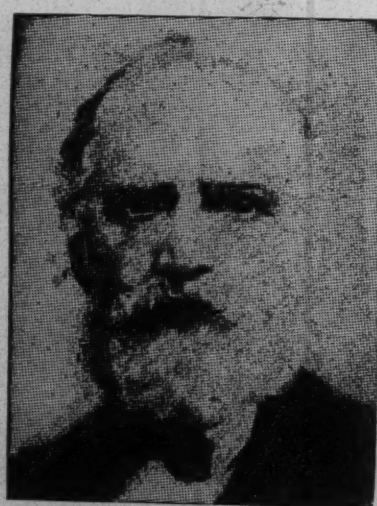
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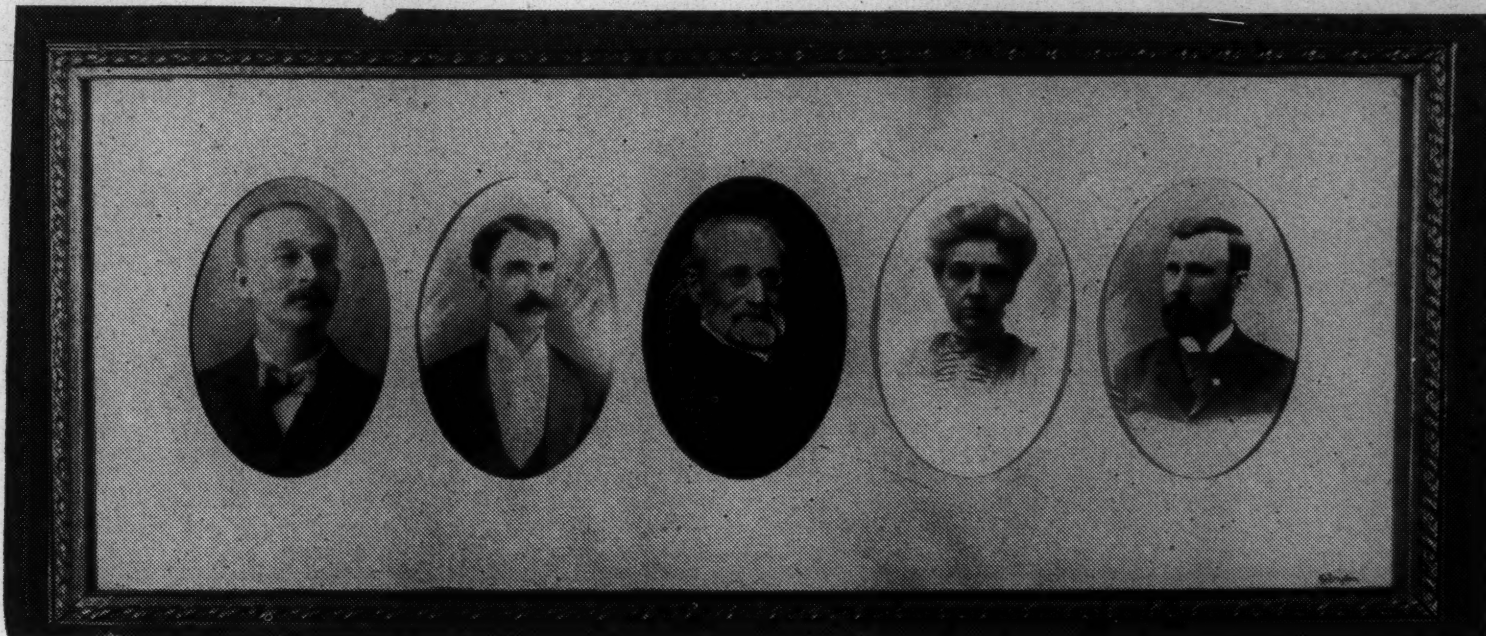
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## A Framed Picture of Davis and His "Children"



The cut above is a reproduction of a framed picture owned by Dr. Frank S. Bigelow. This picture can be seen at the office of PSYCHIC OBSERVER during July and August. Reading from left to right in the picture above are: F. Forest HARDING, Somerville, Massachusetts; Harrison D. BARRETT, Canaan, Maine; Andrew Jackson DAVIS; Margaret FARRINGTON Livingston, Augusta, Maine and Dr. Frank S. BIGELOW, Liberty, Maine. Dr. Bigelow (93) is the only survivor.

## The Davis Collection

(Continued from Page 1, Col. 5)

Golden Rule Camp"—and also a close friend of Dr. Bigelow.

After a ten-mile drive through the Maine forests, we arrived at our destination. Miss Cove's residence, where Dr. Bigelow is spending his declining years, is located on the outskirts of the town of Liberty. It was dusk, but Dr. Bigelow (93) was up and at the door, eager to greet us.

We immediately entered into a lively conversation, and during our chat from late afternoon till almost midnight, I learned many things about Andrew Jackson Davis, facts about his life never before published.

I learned Davis had four favored "children" and that Dr. Bigelow was one of them—the only one still living. Of course, Davis had no children of his own but, during his life-time, named four persons, whom he called "his children."

### I Could Hardly Wait

Dr. Bigelow also told me he was a great friend of the late Elbert Hubbard, and that he visited him, quite some time ago, at his East Aurora, N. Y., headquarters "The Roycroft Inn" and that through his own mediumship, Hubbard had been able to contact him many times.

Dr. Bigelow was quick to inform me that on numerous occasions in the past, and of late almost daily, he has been able to have intimate spirit conversations with Dr. Davis and that he was impressed by him to enter into a plan whereby his personal effects could be displayed to those who cared to view them.

Of course, I was curious to see the treasures and said so. It was then that Dr. Bigelow's face beamed. His enthusiasm and vitality amazed me.

I was first shown Davis' surgical kit which the "Poughkeepsie Seer" used during his career as a doctor. I was told that the principal reason Davis followed this profession was to earn sufficient money to publish his books—working during the day and writing at night.

Next, the blue broadcloth cape and black satin vest worn by Davis were brought into the room by Miss Cove. Finally the cane bear-

ing the inscription, "Property of General Andrew Jackson." Incidentally, the cane is Bigelow's most cherished possession.

Reproduction of photographs of these items are published in this issue.

### Davis' Books Famous

During the course of my visit that evening I also learned that Dr. Bigelow had been instrumental in distributing thousands of Dr. Davis' books; in fact several public Libraries in the State of Maine have received complete sets of Davis' writings as a donation from Dr. Bigelow, whose supreme desire seemed to be to spread his spiritual philosophy, especially throughout the state of Maine.

Of course, Bigelow's home is at Skowhegan, Maine, where he spent 70 years as a country doctor—always suggesting herbs as a cure instead of drugs.

My purpose in going to Maine to borrow these treasures from Dr. Bigelow was so that they could be displayed at the Office of *Psychic Observer*, at Lily Dale, N. Y., during July and August, 1945. (Dr. Bigelow visited Lily Dale in 1937).

There can be no question but that Dr. Davis was in full accord with our arrangements, because, when I took my departure from the Cove homestead, Dr. Bigelow's face beamed again. Furthermore, during several seances held upon my return to Lily Dale, Davis manifested in direct-voice and expressed his gratitude.

### "Philosophy of Death"

Later, in subsequent seances with Clifford L. Bias, Davis was able to build a luminous profile and complete for me some data relative to a booklet, "The Philosophy of Death," which is now being republished, details of which will appear later. This account will be made by George Owen who was present at the seance.

Persons visiting Lily Dale this summer will not only be able to view the *Andrew Jackson Davis Memorial Lyceum Building*; but they will also be able to see some of Davis' personal effects. A complete library of all his books, assembled over a period of many years, is also on display at the *Psychic Observer* building.

At the close of the current Lily Dale Summer Season (Sept. 3) Bigelow's treasured Davis collection will be returned to Maine—consequently those desiring to see them, must do so during July and August, 1945.

EDITOR DONS  
DAVIS' CAPE AND VEST



In the picture above, the editor of PSYCHIC OBSERVER is wearing Davis' cape and black satin vest. He holds the silver headed cane, once owned by General Andrew Jackson and Andrew Jackson Davis. For the inscription on the cane, see page 1.

The cape, vest and cane have been borrowed from Dr. Bigelow and will be on display at the PSYCHIC OBSERVER office, Lily Dale, N. Y., during the coming summer months, July and August.

The tailor's label inside the cape reads: "LITTLEFIELD, BEACON ST., BOSTON." The picture of Davis, in his book "BEYOND THE VALLEY," shows him wearing this cape.

### USED DAVIS BOOKS

All the books written by Andrew Jackson Davis are out-of-print. A few good used copies are available. Send all orders to Dale News, Inc., Lily Dale, N. Y., subject to prior sale. The titles and prices: "Autobiography of A. J. Davis—The Magic Staff," \$8.00; "Penetralia, Harmonial Answers," \$7.50; "Great Harmonia, The Reformer," \$3.50; "Great Harmonia, The Teacher," \$5.00; "Answers To Questions Spiritual," \$5.00; "The Inner Life," \$5.00; "Arabula," \$8.00; "Great Harmonia, The Thinker," \$5.00; "Tale of a Physician," \$4.00; "Answers To Ever-Recurring Questions," \$5.00.

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THIS  
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TELLS  
YOU

SPIRITUALISM'S PICTORIAL JOURNAL

# TRUTH The PSYCHIC OBSERVER

TRUTH  
FOR  
AUTHORITY  
NOT  
AUTHORITY  
FOR  
TRUTH

NUMBER 165

Published by DALE NEWS, Inc., Lily Dale, N. Y., U. S. A.

SEMI-MONTHLY

JULY 25, 1945

10 CENTS

## The Fighting Faith of Our Service Men

### How the Knowledge of Spiritualism Helps Them

*Some have learned the truth of spirit communication; some have personally experienced demonstrations of psychic phenomena. All went out to meet death but became acquainted with the realities of life . . . AND MET GOD!*

#### AN EVEN GREATER FAITH

Pallid half-truths no longer satisfy the boys who have had vivid proof of life after death.

By DORTCH CAMPBELL

As the War of Titans went by many of us asked, What are they thinking about—the men in the foxholes or those who zoom the heavens in their warplanes, or the sailors of the seven seas aboard our battleships? What are they thinking about, we asked, and what will the harvest be?

"I have read dozens of letters and scores of statements from officers and chaplains and from boys themselves" about their Fighting Faith "and the evidence is unmistakable" that the world enters a new phase of Truth, observes Margaret Lee Runbeck in her book "The Great Answer"\*

Read some of the letters that come to Juliette Ewing Pressing, editor of the *Psychic Observer*, from soldiers, sailors and marines and boys who fight in the skies and you will be more greatly assured regarding their Fighting Faith. We know what many of them have been thinking about; we have an inkling of the form of the Fighting Faith that is coming up.

#### Overseas Distribution

It is unmistakable that they have learned that life lasts forever. Like *St. Paul*, they know what they worship. Those lads, I would have you know, have been reading the *Psychic Observer*. All through the titans' war Mr. and Mrs. Pressing sent them out. In the early part of the war a naval officer arranged for their distribution among boys who go down to the sea in ships. Other arrangements were made for distribution to the fighting land and air fronts of Europe and Italy and elsewhere.

The *Psychic Observer* has gone to every theater of war and every zone and sector. It has helped to build up that New Fighting Faith centered in an understanding of the continuity of life. They have read the books that have been published by the hundreds on this subject. The harvest that is coming out of the war is a greater faith.

It has been my privilege to read a few of the many letters received by the *Psychic Observer* from all the theaters of war operation,



Psychic Observer

SGT. WINFRED T. VANDEVENTER, A.T.S. Outpost Unit, A.P.O. 729 care of Postmaster, Seattle, Washington, receives the *Psychic Observer* regularly and says it is comfort to hear from all fellow Spiritualists.

The picture above shows that he is serving his country in the arctic regions and in a three-page letter, the sergeant describes various psychic experiences shared with his buddies as well as demonstrations of his own clairvoyance.

none among the number being more interesting than that received from Private First Class Martin E. Breithaupt, who writes from The Netherlands East Indies Mollucca Group. Pfc. Breithaupt describes how he receives inspiration for very beautiful art work. He dreams out his sketches and brings pictures to waking consciousness. He tells of help from The Unseen when he does his drawing.

#### Underlying Principles

So much enlightenment has reached me as a result of my studies in Spiritualism, he says in substance in a letter to Mrs. Pressing. He adds, "I am a one hundred per cent protagonist for your work."

"I have advanced enough to understand the underlying principle you have to know in order to carry on your splendid spiritual education program," he concludes.

One has to look at his art to understand what great inspiration he has received from unseen powers, without which inspiration he could not have accomplished so much in that far-away land adjacent to the Orient.

Among other interesting letters I find one from Private Lois Wilson who is ministering to the ailing at the Air Force Convalescent Hospital at Plattsburg Barracks, New York, and who tells of psychical obsessions.

"Many of these patients," she thinks, "may be obsessed in the 'Wickland sense'."

Those who are familiar with the



Psychic Observer

PRIVATE FRANK S. PINKOS, A.S.N. 36459270, Sec. 22 B A D No. 1, A.P.O. No. 365, Postmaster, New York City, was privileged to learn a great deal about the unfoldment of psychic gifts before he joined the service.

For many years, he sat in seances with CHARLES SWANN, one of America's youngest direct-voice mediums. He was a splendid mechanic and exchanged services on Swann's car for the privilege of sitting in his seances. In this way he developed up to a point where now, according to a recent letter, he is actually beginning to hear voices through his own mediumship.

"The first time it happened," he says "was four months ago. I was sure I heard a spirit voice. It felt funny at first for my vocal cords were controlled. Since then I have had plenty experiences and the voice always seems to come from my chest and then at night I can see myself lying on the bed and I take trips to many beautiful places."

vast work with mental patients undertaken by Dr. Carl Wickland in California will understand her meaning. The author of "Thirty Years Among the Dead" and the "Gateway of Understanding" and his late wife gave their lives to this form of research and to ministering to those afflicted. They were pioneers in the work of helping those in mental darkness by psychical healing — work which some day will be carried on around the world.

#### Keeping The Morale

Another interesting letter comes from Frank Pinkos, a protege of Charlie Swann a Chesterfield Camp direct-voice medium of most extraordinary physical powers. Pinkos, now in England, whose own psychic powers were developed under the tutelage of Mr. Swann, tells of his researches and experiences.

"The only thing that keeps my morale high," observes Frank in his letter to his friend and tutor, "are those ever watching guides over me. When I get in a sour mood they brush it away from me and the first thing I know I am singing to myself."

Frank in his migrations in London, talked with Hannen Swaffer,

Ernest Oaten of the "Two Worlds" and others who lead beyond seas in the work in which he is so greatly interested.

Sgt. Winfred T. Vandeventer, with the A. T. Outpost Unit at Seattle, Wash., writes another interesting letter to the editors of the *Psychic Observer*. The psychic vision is definitely opening in his case.

"Spirit faces appear to me out of seeming nothingness," he observes. Unusual phenomena apparently may be developed in his case in the years to come.

#### They Met God!

These letters—and many more—tell us that a new day is dawning for their fighting faith in The Unseen. There is a great stir in their minds as they look upon this coming world born of a great faith. They have been lashed by war and are sick and tired of pallid half-truths.

Letters of those boys show what is coming over the horizon for men and women of *The Tomorrow*. There is, indeed, going to be a great harvest of love and truth and faith from the Titans' War. Like the Red Sea, life is being rolled back for them by this newer understanding of survival. They went out to meet death and they met life in the raw, and they met God!

SERVICE MAN SUBMITS  
THIS UNUSUAL DRAWING



Psychic Observer

Above is a reproduction of a drawing by PFC MARTIN E. BREITHAUPT, 39203068, 905th Engineer A.F. Headquarters Company, A.P.O. No. 719, care of Postmaster, San Francisco, California.

His stationery shows that he is serving in Mollucca Group, Netherlands East Indies. A full account of his psychic experiences is told in DORTCH CAMPBELL'S article on this page.

The original of this drawing in exquisite coloring is framed and will be on display at the PSYCHIC OBSERVER office, Lily Dale, N. Y., during the summer months.

## Noted Spiritual Healer Passes Away at Chicago

CHARLES ALBERT BURGESS (88), known in the field of Spiritualism as "Doc," passed away May 30th from bronchial pneumonia at his home, 3337 South Paulina St., Chicago, Illinois.

He was known as "DEAN OF SPIRITUAL HEALERS"; President of the Illinois State Spiritualist Association (N.S.A.) for the past 33 years; a member of its board for 39 years; was President of The Chicago Spiritualist League and the Illinois Association of Mental and Spiritual Healers.

According to Herbert Van Valen, Secretary of The I.S.S.A., funeral services were held in Chicago, June 2nd, at 1750 West 35th St.

He was born in Millville, Pa., May 12th 1857, of Quaker parentage (English and Scotch); moved to Genoa, Nebraska in 1872; his father, an agent under Grant's administration, had charge of Indian affairs; his Mother, working side by side, taught an Indian Manual Labor School.

He was one of seven children, spent 10 years in Nebraska among the Pawnee Indians; he was brought up to know the real meaning of the word "Medicine Man"; later he moved to Oklahoma where close association with Indian life continued eight more years; he had charge of the Indians' cattle in that section and became an expert horseman.

At 24, he went to California, started an Indian medicine business which, it is said, netted him \$40,000 in nine years. At 25, he was married. All through his business career, he was interested in Spiritualism.

Regularly for the past 35 years, he visited Lily Dale Assembly in New York State, where during the summer months, he conducted healing classes at his residence No. 1 Cottage Row and at The Assembly Hall.

During an interview with the Editor of PSYCHIC OBSERVER several years ago, he remarked: "I owe much of what some people call success to the years spent among the Indians . . . they were really Spiritualists. I have seen their medicine men actually demonstrate marvelous healing power. I also was able, during those days of my early experiences with the Indians, to acquire a vast knowledge of herbs and also how to administer them."

At 33, he accepted a position with Buffalo Bill and for several years he traveled extensively with that famous western character.

At 37, he moved to Chicago; continued his medicine business several more years—specializing in plastic dressings.

In relating one of his own psychic experiences, he said: "I well remember the time when I was called in to a family 'HOME CIRCLE' Continued on Page 9, Col. 4-5)



C. A. BURGESS



# What Converted Me To Spiritualism

*Theories may read well and hold together in print, but under the light of experience, especially in the light of psychic phenomena, they fall to pieces and leave us with positive proof of personal conscious survival.*

High sounding words and phrases about mental extension of consciousness are theoretical.

By

MINNIE MINERVA SOULE

Looking back over my childhood; and especially through the days of my early girlhood, I can see that between me and the knowledge of spirit influence there was but a step, and it only needed some strong experience to awaken me from a half-dreaming consciousness into the fullest realization.

My mother passed into the other life when I was four, and while I have only one or two distinct recollections of her while in the body, she has always been a living mother to me.

Like many children, and I believe like most children, I had an intuitive feeling she was near me, and when I had been reproached, corrected, or troubled, I would run away to my own room and stand before her picture, talk to her and tell her just how I felt. I would always feel comforted and strong after my one-sided interview.

## How It Started

Of Spiritualism as a philosophy, or of spirit communion as a fact, I knew nothing, for all my early associations in home, school and social life were of a strict, orthodox nature.

At the time of my marriage, I had seen three mediums—one in Bangor, Maine, to whom I went with friends as a matter of curiosity; one in my father's home, a lady who visited with an old friend of the family, and who took me aside and gave me a talk under the influence of her guide.

The third was a child, twelve or thirteen years old, whose father invited me, a dear friend of mine, Polly, and Mr. Soule to come and see his little daughter. The little spirit controlling the child wrote three letters in the dark—one for each of us—from our respective mothers, and at this sitting I learned that Mr. Soule knew something of the subject of Spiritualism.

Soon after this, I was married and went to New Jersey. Polly, accompanied me but we were hardly settled when she grew ill, a victim of consumption.

## I Was Troubled

Through the months of her illness, we frequently talked of the little medium in Somerville and of the possibility of spirit communion. I finally got a reluctant promise from her that if it were possible for her to return she would do so.

She passed away when my baby was three weeks old, and a night or two after her death I saw her spirit mother, standing in the doorway of her room, and looking so earnestly at me that I was rather troubled. I spoke to her, saying, "Oh, what is the matter? What have I done? Don't you think I did all I could to save Polly?" She smiled and walked away.

This occurrence troubled me so much that we moved as soon as I

might help us through our grief.

About this time the father of my little friend gave me a planchette, and I tried it on various occasions, but could get nothing, and so put it away. About two years later my brother was married and brought his wife to live with us.

One day I came across my planchette, and told my brother's wife what it was used for. She wanted to try it, and, to my amazement, she no sooner touched it than it began to write. But as she was fond of playing pranks I doubted the genuineness of the manifestation.

## "It Wants To Write"

I put my hand on it and it kept on writing. That was a day long to be remembered, for we wrote with the little planchette until two o'clock in the morning, receiving remarkable messages from my friend Polly, and from my mother.

On Sunday morning following the first writings with the planchette, we were all at the breakfast table, when I passed the spoons to my sister-in-law. She took one and her hand shook and trembled. She had no control over it.

We all exclaimed in one voice, "It wants to write!" and, when we put a pencil in her hand, she wrote a long letter from my mother, with tests and assurances of her presence with us. The writing was almost identical with that of my mother's when she was in earth life.

I took a pencil and got some writing, too; and then followed some months of experiments with automatic writing for both of us.

## And Then I Knew

For a year these automatic writings were put aside because of complications and trials in connection with a near and dear relative to whom, and for whom it was my pleasure to devote my time and energy.

At the end of that year, a much loved aunt, who lived in New Hampshire, passed away after most intense suffering. I went to the funeral, and while the body was still in the house had a conversation with her husband, in which he told me of her effort to write something after she was unable to speak.

The matter troubled him exceedingly, and leaving him I went alone to the room where her body lay, and became conscious of her presence.

In that hour I knew that I would hear from her, and would at some time be able to give the message she tried so hard to write. I stayed ten days in New Hampshire, and on the first evening of my return, my cousin, a young man, Mr. Soule and I decided to see if we could get some communication from the spirit.

## Table Tilting

Accordingly we sat down to a little sewing stable. The table tipped about in a very lively fashion, and after a few minutes the hinges were loosened and I feared it would come apart, so I suggested that we give them a stronger and heavier table.

We then went into another room and sat around a heavy mahogany

(Continued Page 3, Col. 3)

BOSTON MEDIUM



Psychic Observer  
MINNIE MINERVA SOULE  
Nov. 12th, 1867-Apr. 28th, 1936

was able. Not long after Mr. Soule was taken very ill, and we were obliged to move to Boston.

When my baby was six months old, we began to have some startling experiences and manifestations in our home. As soon as Mr. Soule left the house, the clock would stop and the fire would go out; nor could I keep the clock running or the fire burning unless he were there.

One day he had just left the house, and a neighbor who had been calling walked over to the stove, and, lifting the cover, laughingly said, "I guess you will be able to keep your fire today, for it looks as if it would keep until Mr. Soule comes home."

As she said this she walked out of the room, and before the sound of her retreating footsteps died away the kettle stopped boiling. I rushed to the stove, lifted the cover and found no sign of fire, but everything as black as if it had been out for some time.

## Began With A Planchette

I was much frightened and called my neighbor back. When she looked into the stove, she gasped, "Take your baby and come into my house as quick as you can, for this house is bewitched."

I needed no urging but took the baby and stayed with my neighbor until Mr. Soule came home. This was Saturday and the baby passed away the following Wednesday.

As soon as I was able, Mr. Soule and I went to see the little Somerville medium who was so good to us, but who never in any way referred to what was coming into my life.

She did tell me, however, that my friend Polly had made the manifestations in our home, hoping that we would make an effort to communicate with her so she

The Dawn of a New Light . . .

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(P-160-165)

# Truths of Spiritualism As Taught in the Field of Psychic Science Appeal To Learned Author and Lecturer

## SCHOLAR TESTIFIES TO SLATE-WRITING PHENOMENA

GARBO ADMIRER IT

Lawyer, Theosophist and Editor witness unusual results of THORNE'S Mediumship.

By ALVIN B. KUHN, Ph.D.  
227 Murray St.  
Elizabeth (2), New Jersey

It was my privilege to be a guest in attendance at a recent weekly class for beginners in psychic development conducted by Edward Lester Thorne, at 41 W. 73rd St., New York City. The hour and a half was devoted mainly to the reports given by the class members as to what they saw in the way of lights and figures of deceased persons, one of whom was identified as the spirit of the late Ernie Pyle, war correspondent.

Before the seance began, the medium consented, as a special test, to arrange for a possible slate-writing message. I was asked to participate in it to the extent of having to wash the slate, both sides, clean with rag and water. I placed the slate behind my back, between my body and the davenport on which I was sitting, where it remained throughout the entire seance.

The slate was wrapped by Mr. Thorne in several sheets of an ordinary newspaper, and tied with heavy cord by R. G. Pressing, all in full light and on the sight of the forty-three persons present. Mr. Thorne had broken off a piece of chalk and placed it in the folded paper against the slate.

## Medium's Lawyer Attends

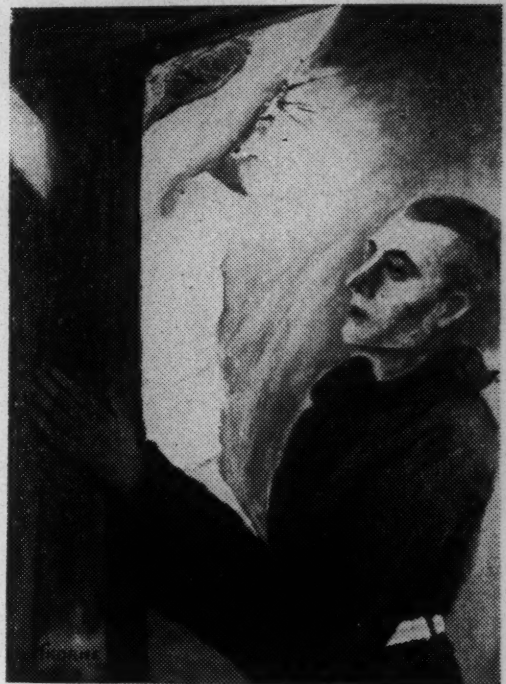
At the conclusion of the class work, when the lights had been turned on, Mr. Pressing untied the cord and removed the newspaper wrapping. On one side was found this writing, in print letters: "READ JOHN 20:29." A Bible was procured and the verse read as follows: "Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou has believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."

I do not know that I needed to be reminded that those are blessed who, even if they have not had ocular demonstrations, can well believe in the realities of spiritual existence. I have always had an abundance of evidence, both objective and subjective, as to such things, some of which has been published and more of which later come to print. It is a pleasure to testify to the demonstration in the present instance.

## Meaning of Phenomena

Perhaps what the world needs more than anything else today is the assurance of the continuity of the existence of the divine soul in man. Only with that assurance can the human sense of moral and spiritual values be so fortified as to enforce upon the minds of nations as well as their component individuals a wholesome respect for the principles of truth and justice, the flagrant disregard of which permits designing forces of ignorance and evil to work their sad havoc in the outward sphere of action.

Only when it is the general conviction that all souls live on and must reap the fruitage of their acts for good or ill, will the councils of statesmen and governments be guided by regard for spiritual truth.



Psychic Observer

Above is a reproduction of an "automatic painting," received during a series of seances with EDWARD LESTER THORNE of New York City. It stands as evidence of the various phases of mediumship possessed by Thorne when he meets once a week with his class members who form the necessary "battery" for this type of phenomena.

This oil painting was seen recently by GRETA GARBO when she attended a service at Thorne's Universal Spiritualist Church, 257 Columbus Ave. Miss Garbo admired it and asked that a photograph be made and sent to her Hollywood home.

Thorne describes the above picture by saying "It was really done through 'automatic painting' for, like automatic writing, the paint brush was 'guided' across the canvas and throughout the entire work I never knew what color would be selected or what the next brush-stroke would be. It is a picture of a monk before a statue of Christ."

Another phase of Thorne's mediumship, slate-writing, is described by Alvin Bayd KUHN (See article this page).

Still another phase of mediumship, Independent Writing, was demonstrated by Thorne several years ago before a committee of the "Scientific American." This demonstration was concluded and rated as most successful and NEVER to this day has it been duplicated by any magician UNDER THE SAME CONDITIONS.

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By ANN HACKETT

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# Spiritualism and Modern Thought

Vast hosts of so-called "Dead" are seeking means of communication. When the bridge is built, the triumph of human spirit, encased in flesh, will be complete.

## The War Has Given a New Poignancy to the Human Soul.

By MISS LIND-AF-HAGEBY  
Distinguished English Lecturer  
and Authoress

The general breakdown of conventional religion is apparent to the most casual observer. Orthodoxy is losing its hold on all but the most superficial thinkers. It is not because men are growing less religious; it is because they seek reality and life in matters of supreme spiritual importance. The war has given a new poignancy to question about the human soul, about moral responsibility, about life after death. It is the great human prerogative to ask questions. Science, religion, art, civilization are the answers, tentative and imperfect, yet well worth the travail of the mind.

Spiritualism conceived as an attitude of serious inquiry into problems that affect the present and future of the soul, into the nature of man and things, into the object of existence, is fraught with dynamic power of changing belief and conduct. Hence the hostility of the ecclesiastically fossilized mind. Hence the silly warnings about Satan as the director of every spiritualistic seance, about lunatic asylums as the ultimate place of reception for those who dally with spirits.

Professor William James

Ecclesiastical hostility to Spiritualism will some day be accounted one of the most remarkable features in the great history of human stupidity which is being written in the new alphabet of spiritual liberation. The doctrine of the immortality of the human spirit is the pivot round which churches, creeds and sects revolve. Threats of hell and promises of Heaven, purgation and punishment, hope and consolation, are all central in this belief. It is a matter of paramount interest to millions of human beings, for there are very few who, like the late Professor William James, declare themselves indifferent on the subject.

Whilst the doors and windows of the Church are tightly closed and volumes of sermons and speculations on immortality are poured out before more or less somnolent congregations, there is a loud knock at the door. Spiritualism wants to enter, calls out: "This belief, this hope of yours can be tested, proved; the so-called dead are ready and willing to speak to you; they are alive with greater knowledge. Prepare yourselves for communion and entry into the light of a fuller understanding."

But the churches will not listen, will not suffer the people to listen. Muttering something about necromancy or demons or lifting the veil, he rushes forward and bolts and bars the door. And the sermons go on and the light is withheld.

Saints, Seers, Prophets, Were

Mediums

But the congregation dwindles. Too many heard the call and realized that food for the soul may be found without the Church, and the gathering round the torch-bearers grows day by day, to the confusion and reproach of theological negation. For the red-blooded Christians who left the pews of submission made a vital

discovery: that Christianity is primarily spiritualistic, founded, maintained and revived by the very messages, phenomena, supernatural occurrences, and psychic receptivity which are the essence of Modern Spiritualism.

They found that the sacred life of Christ was an epitome of all the



Psychic Observer  
MISS LIND-AF-HAGEBY

spiritual powers for which man is bidden to strive, that saint and seers and prophets were the mediums through which the stored-up wisdom of the spirit world was poured into human minds.

Spiritualism is not only an antidote to the disease of religious stagnation. It breaks down the barrier, raised by ignorance and fear, between faith and knowledge, religion and science. Men have been taught to fear the encroachment of reason in the domain of belief.

## Overwhelming Evidence

Spiritualism bids us use our judgment, test, verify, criticize. It shows that there is no hard and fast line of demarcation between scientific facts and religious verities. Trance, clairvoyance, psychometry, telepathy, materialization of spirit-forms are amenable to test by scientific methods and instruments.

The study of the higher faculties of the human mind and of the finer forces of nature may be approached from the religious or the scientific points of view. There is no intrinsic antagonism between them. It is merely a matter of classification.

There is overwhelming evidence in support of the conviction that we are entering on an epoch of rapprochement between "the dead" and "the living." Phenomena, once isolated and highly peculiar, will become general and accessible to observation and the test of com-

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mon sense. There is an unprecedented development of mediumship and psychic gifts.

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## What Converted Me

(Continued from Page 2, Col. 3)

dining table, and waited patiently for results. We all became conscious of an unusual power, and soon both my cousin and Mr. Soule were fast asleep.

We still kept hold of hands and suddenly I became entranced. The idea of control never entered my mind, strange as it may seem, for I had never seen anyone act in any different manner under influence than an ordinary one, and had never associated any influence with myself except my mother and Polly and my dearest friends.

## I Must Be A Medium

The next day, I decided to try the sitting again and see what the result would be, and was rewarded by a much milder exhibition and a more coherent communication. It was at this sitting that we learned that it was a little Indian who was trying to talk through me, and that her name was "Sunbeam."

Immediately after the second attempt to control, Mr. Soule went out and bought a *Banner of Light* and found where Spiritualist meetings were held, and we started to attend one the next day, Sunday.

We went to four that Sunday, and at every one I got a message—one from my friend Polly—and, curiously enough, each medium told me I was a medium.

At one of the churches, we had a long talk with the chairman of the meeting after the service, and Mr. Soule explained to him what had happened to me and asked him if he could account for it by mediumship, and he said that undoubtedly I had been controlled.

## Theories Not Enough

He told us of a Thursday afternoon meeting which he held, where inexperienced mediums were given an opportunity to see what they could do, and invited me to come to the next one. I did so, and when he invited me to the platform I went without the least hesitation, and *Sunbeam* overshadowed me for the third time and told me some of the things she saw.

From that time, she worked through me in public, and I never had the least doubt about her being able to prove the truth of her assertions.

She was soon followed by other spirit guides, and they became as much a part of our home life as any friends we had in earth-life. I was so proud of their love, and always felt such a desire to have them tell everybody something that I did not know.

I can hardly relate any single experience that converted me to a belief in Spiritualism, but I have numberless ones to prove to me that my guides were not under the same limitations as I.

Their faithful attendance upon me, their wise counsel, could not fail to convince me that mediumship is an unfolding of our spiritual natures to receive what our

## Freeville Camp Now Open

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The fiftieth anniversary of the Central New York Spiritualist Association, "Freeville Spiritualist Camp," opened May 30th and will close September 2nd, according to the official 1945 program.

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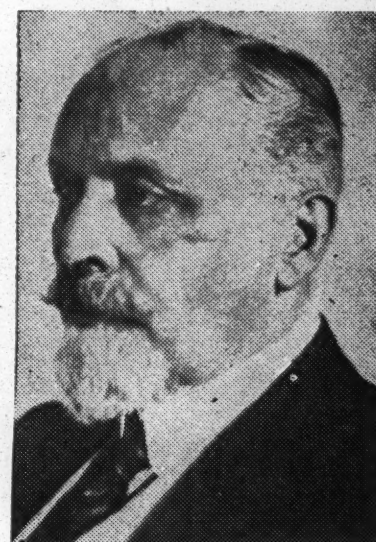
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For complete 1945 program, write Secretary, Freeville Spiritualist Camp, Freeville, N. Y.



Psychic Observer

BARON (DR.) FREIHERR von SCHRENCK-NOTZING, author of the "Phenomena of Materialization," (\*) passed away April, 1929. While still a youth he was deeply interested in psychic questions, which started with his study of hypnotism at Munich.

He knew and worked with Dr. Carl du Prel, who directed his researches and had a highly favorable influence upon him. Beside this master he absorbed all the literature on the so-called occult sciences, and made his first experiments with the assistance of the medium, Luna M., in the studios of the Bavarian artists Gabriel von

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spirit desires.

I am more or less familiar with the arguments in favor of mind-reading and subliminal consciousness as an explanation for the various manifestations of the spirit, and I frankly admit that if, in these arguments, which are so far theoretical, I could find explanation for all my experiences, I would be obliged to ask my guides to go a step further and demonstrate more fully and plainly their life, consciousness and power aside from my personality; but I find no such explanation.

Theories may read well and hold together in print, but under the light of experience, especially in the line of psychic phenomena they fall to pieces and leave us with what I am pleased to call *positive proof of the continuity of life and love, and an ever-growing interest in all things that tend to uplift the soul-life of humanity.*

Max and Albert Keller.

He then occupied himself particularly with the problem of the transmission of thought. Later he entered into relations with the philosophers Von Hellenbach and Edouard von Hartmann, with whom he made methodical studies.

When he came to Paris in 1889 for the second International Congress of Psychology and Experimental Hypnotism he met Charles Richet, Myers, and Sidgwick.

In 1891 he translated Richet's work, "Experimental Studies in the Transmission of Thought and Clairvoyance." It was Schrenck-Notzing who introduced theapeutic hypnotism into Germany, and he published a book on that subject which was translated into English and Italian.

## Cavalcade of Mediums

Thereafter this Bavarian savant occupied himself constantly with the problems of mediumship. His life was laboriously devoted to ascertain the verities in this vast domain, so difficult to explore. He had to fight constantly against the scepticism and the irony of his contemporaries.

But pursuing steadfastly his work of research, he experimented with a great number of mediums, including Eglinton, Heine, Schrap, Carancini, Politi, Lucia Sordi, Linda Gazerra, Eusapia Paladino, Stanislaw Tomczyk, and Eva Carriere. The last important mediums whom he experimented with were de Brunau and the brothers Willy and Rudolf Schneider.

In Schrenck-Notzing, metaphysical science lost one of its active champions. He brought to bear on all his work a perfect eclecticism which permitted him to examine any working hypothesis without prejudice.

He was a noble example to the scientists of all countries, who have not his uncompromising spirit of justice and who regard all researchers in the psychic domain as fools.

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# "The New World" HOW IT CAN BE BUILT

This Trance Address By

Wendell Willkie

Shows His Ideas Persist

Last March, the late WENDELL WILLKIE was purported to have delivered an address through the trance instrumentality of MARIAN SARVELA DRAKE. His topic was "THE NEW WORLD." The address was delivered at a regular service conducted under the auspices of The PROGRESSIVE SPIRITUALIST CHURCH, Morris Hall, 3002 27th Ave., South, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

After checking circumstances under which this Willkie message was received, PSYCHIC OBSERVER decided it worthy of publication. Here is the message:

Wendell Willkie Speaking

It is a rather pleasant experience to speak in this manner. I am one who always liked to express my ideas about the things of life. I tried to do this while I was on earth. I want to do the same now.

How are we going to build this new world of ours? What are the steps to take in order to mould that new world so that it will be peaceful? Who are the ones that are laying the ground work? Are they leaders in the countries?

No, my friends. Your sons on the battle front are the ones who are laying the ground work for this new world.

Leaders of the countries must have a far visioned mind to see what they are doing. They must understand that they have to make the peace a lasting peace now and not as it happened in 1918 and 19.

Leaders Will Conflict

How are they going to do that? It is not just three or four people or leaders who are going to be taken into consideration, but every country on this globe must be included, big and small alike.

They cannot leave small countries to shift for themselves, or to tell them what they are to do. They must be taken in with the bigger countries—big representation—that is understandable in every way.

Already I see a conflict between some of the leaders in this peace making. We are working very hard on those people to make them understand what they are to do and how it must be done. Now in like manner it will be right if we have something to say about it.

It will be the new world, but it is not going to be the kind of a world that you think it is going to be. Many changes are going to take place. It is not just peace making alone that makes the world anew. It is what they are going to do with the masses of the people and how they are going to handle them and how they are going to let them take hold of the things in government.

That "New World"

Every country, one after the other, will have a government that is for the people, and by the people, and not just for a few to do and say what they like. Perhaps it sounds a little bit hard for you to hear that. Time will show you.

Kings and queens will be removed and a people's government will take their places. One country after the other will come clear of the yoke that they have been carrying along for centuries. And when that is done—it may take time but it will be done—then the new world will begin to look like a new world.

Yes, you say to me I am a true socialist. "So I am." That is true. That's the way it looks to me—that that hour is coming and nobody can stop it. Vast numbers of people have been exploited long enough. What did they get out of that work for centuries? Who

received the benefit? The people are getting tired of that.

You have noticed that already in different countries they are learning that way. I said different countries, not in the United States so much yet, but wait. It will be here just as well as it is in the other countries. And why not? It is necessary. One country after the other will follow the example.

Again you may say "God won't permit that." God has nothing to do with that plan. That's a man's plan. God has given a perfectly good, clear mind for man to think with, and man is going to use that mind from now on much more than he ever did before.

Wendell Willkie

Each one is thinking for himself and not what the other fellow has told him to think. That's why things in the world are changing. That's why the new world is coming. That's why the conditions in the world are going to be illuminated. That's why the early conditions are in a tailspin now—to clear the way for bigger and better things to come.

What About Russia?

Again you may ask "How long will it take?" I would not attempt to tell you how long it will take, but I know that it will not take centuries as all things have taken before. This is a time of revelation, and I don't mean in a religious way at all. Revelation for bigger and better things and better understanding. Yes, leaders must go on and open the way.

You have noticed in your own government that changes have taken place over there quite a bit. More yet will take place before many years are gone, but every step of the way the progress gets bigger and better. The leading star will come from the United States. That gives a little starting

point in this new world! so also for Russia. They will go hand in hand with the peace conference this spring.

Yes, I hear someone asking "Are you going to be there?" Naturally, why shouldn't I? I want this world to be a peaceful and harmonious world for all of you who are still on the earth plane—where women and children are protected so they can go out and walk on the highways and byways without being molested by someone all the time.

Time Element Lacking

Will I be at the peace conference? Yes, and perhaps I can get my voice into someone, my ideas transferred from my own being to someone else over there to carry my ideas through in that manner. Nothing is impossible, I have found that out.

And it is not impossible to transfer thoughts to another under the right conditions. While I was on earth I had a certain one who always gave me my inspiration, and that was my school professor from olden times. He was very clear minded, and I attribute to him my successfulness while I was in the business world.

Again you ask "How soon can we get this thing going?" It is going already, my friends. Peace conferences are going on every day and hourly, not only between three or four people, but everyone of you are also taking part in that peace conference. Your hearts and souls are always saying "Oh, I hope it comes to an end soon." That's what helps.

Nervousness Eliminated

You must keep that thought up. Don't give up the idea at any time. Push the thing along. And that will happen sooner if everyone gets back of the idea. The new world that I see coming is harmonious in feeling between people. There is not one man bigger or better than the other one. Everyone is on the same level. Health conditions are going to be very, very much different than now-days. Everything will settle down very, very much more than it is now.

Nervousness that everybody witnesses now-a-days will be completely eliminated. Having the mind of a man gone through death, I see clearly all ideas, and when that is done then the same people can work through other minds to bring bigger and better understanding into those minds, but that is a task to do and it is not an easy one.

Educate the Professors

Often in my life I have seen men have differences between themselves and they were not very easy on each other, often times knocking each other down in fist

TRANCE MEDIUM



Psychic Observer

MARIAN SARVELA DRAKE, Ass't Pastor of The Progressive Spiritual Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota, of which Rev. A. M. Drake is pastor.

It was through her mediumship that the Wendell Willkie message, published on this page, was received.

fight, but you cannot clear mankind in that way. You have to educate him. Sometimes one does not want to be educated. How then are you going to do it, or what are you going to do with that kind of a people?

Once they are educated and their minds are clear, and then they go on and clear a way, the others will follow. Leaders are the ones who must be educated to begin with. Ministers, too, must be educated to see life different than they see it now.

School professors also must be educated so that they can teach their flock to understand life as it is. When we can get leaders educated, they in turn can educate their countries, and in that way we can bring a harmonious world to you.

Peace Must Be Earned

Life in this beautiful world I see coming is harmonious and happy. Peace and harmony—wouldn't you like to have that already? It will be a peaceful life in which you can always see happiness in other people, and in which another will give you a lift and helping hand if you need that. Love will overcome all the shortcomings. When life is that way then your life is a new world—the new world that is coming.

It will be a revelation to each one of you. It will bring a revelation to every country in the world, not one or two, but all of them. It is to be a world of understanding, a world where everyone speaks the same language with an understanding mind. It sounds impossible to some of you, but it is not impossible. It is very possible. That's what I want you all to look forward to.

Revealed To Willkie

Get your mind onto the things that you want to have and do and accomplish. No matter how hard your task might be, carry that through. It is your task. Don't leave that to someone else to do. They may be having too much of that already in life—always burdens that have been shoved off from one to the other to carry on. Why not finish this condition? Why not do it right now? And do it for all the times to come.

I see a book opening here on the wall. I see many names being written into this book; countries registered in that same book; pages are filled with the names of our countries and their leaders. That book is a history that will make your new world, a new world that is peaceful and harmonious to life.

Many things are revealed to me

here this evening, but it is too early to talk about those. Perhaps sometime they can be brought about. The other thing that is brought here to me now is perfect protection to everyone of you from the unseen side of life.

Each one of you, are protected if you believe that or not. All in all whether you know that, or not, it doesn't make any difference. Many of you I see have a very fine vibration, and that brings the spirit vibration close to you. You may say to me, "Who am I to talk to you about the spirit vibration because I have been gone such a short time." I knew lots about the spiritual vibrations long before I passed away. It is nothing new to me whatever.

I have a perfect understanding and I have a right to speak what I know to be right. While I was on my trip around the world I had such a little time to be in each country, but I learned a lot in a little time. I was there to learn, and I also knew when I started on that trip that that trip was going to be successful as far as my coming back to my own country was concerned.

About '52 and '53

That trip was made for a reason. I knew then that it did not mean much to me, but that it would mean a lot at the peace table when they are meeting over there. It was for that purpose that I made the trip, and I accomplished what I started out to do at that time.

There were many things in my life that I was not able to accomplish. It was not the right time to accomplish those things, and that's why they did not come to pass. The new world is coming closer and closer to each and everyone of you.

From now on, until say '52 or (Continued on Page 9, Col. 5)

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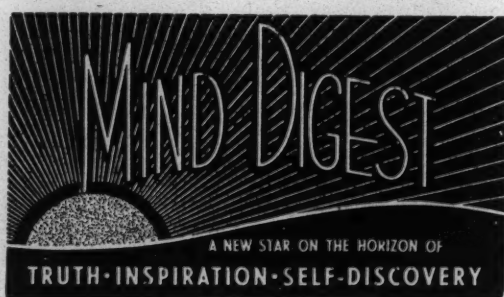
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## Welsh Psychic Researcher Attends His First Blindfold Billet Seance

### MEDIUM'S EYES SECURELY TAPED WITH ADHESIVE

*The Medium Was*  
**Clifford Bias**  
Chesterfield, Indiana

By GEORGE OWEN

Harris Bldg., Honesdale, Pa.

Neither had I read about nor had I personally witnessed demonstrations of blind-fold billet reading until recently. It seems that this phase of phenomena is unique among American mediums—at least that has been the result of information I have gathered since being in the states.

The first experience of my life with this particular phase of mediumship happened several weeks ago when I was a visitor at a seance held in the *Psychic Observer* Seance Room at Lily Dale, N. Y. Clifford L. Bias, Chesterfield, Indiana, was the medium.

The seance was conducted in full light with nine persons present—all of whom were members of the *Psychic Observer* office and circulation department staff.

They were: Ann Miller; Violet E. Moran; Edna Frauley; George Staley; Ann Foster; Bernice Heath; Gertrude Gens; Juliette Ewing Pressing, R. G. Pressing and myself.

#### Securely Taped

Mr. Bias instructed each person to write two or three questions on paper, outlining whatever subjects we cared to choose, or addressing greetings to those dear to us on the other side of the veil. Paper and pencils were provided for that purpose.

After our questions and greetings were written, they were collected by Mrs. Pressing, who was careful to keep them from being seen by the medium.

While Mrs. Pressing was collecting the papers from each person, Mr. Bias was busy covering both his eyes with adhesive tape. That done, he asked me to examine his handiwork. I did, and noted that he could not possibly "peek" because both eyes were completely covered.

Then he gave me a strip of black

cloth and told me to place it over his eyes and tie it tight at the back of his head. With this done, it was clear to everyone that it was impossible for him to see anything through both the tape and cloth.

Then Mrs. Pressing placed all the papers on a card table before the medium. He was not in what is generally termed a trance state, though it was plain that he was being overshadowed and under strong psychic force. Amid heavy overhead lighting, he began to feel for the papers which had been thrown upon the table before him.

#### Every Sitter Reached

As the medium began the seance, he took a few of the papers in his hands, shuffled them as is sometimes done with cards, and dropped them down on the table. This was repeated several times.

It was then that the said *Pink Flower*, a member of Mrs. Pressing's group of spirit collaborators, made her presence known to him. She expressed disappointment and wondered why a little party had not been arranged. She even suggested that Mr. Pressing should have ordered some ice cream for the occasion.

Next the medium held a paper in his hand, then directed his answer to what was written on it to one of the sitters, who said it was her's because of what he was saying. The medium could not have known by physical means what was written on the billet and yet, not only was the question repeated but the answer was given and this answer was true and correct. While the general procedure was the same with every written billet, yet each was different.

In every instance, the medium did not repeat the questions; rather he told each questioner what they wanted to know—answering each question specifically.

Names were given to some, they were relatives in the higher life; others had varied messages concerning personal matters. Then several had advice about their health, or the health of someone related to them. One question had to do with someone in the armed service. This was clearly answered, though it was known that the medium did not, in a normal way,

know anything at all about him.

I am the only one who knew what was written on my own paper. This is what the medium said to me: "There is a Hannah and a Jane here, and this is for you, Mr. Owen," turning his head in my direction.

I answered: "Yes; Hannah is the name of my mother, and Jane the name of my wife."

"That's right," he said, "your wife, daughter, mother and father, are all in spirit. They tell me you are to go on with the work of writing—help people understand the great truths of this work. We are all behind you in this and give 100 per cent approval to what you have in mind."

#### All Questions Answered

On my paper I greeted my wife, daughter, father and mother, expressing joy at knowing their presence at a previous seance. Then, too, I had a written question. This was: "What should I do about the idea of taking up the psychic work again?" The medium covered all I had written on the paper.

After reading two or three other papers and all correctly, it appeared that everyone had been reached. The medium said he thought he had given a reading to all present. To this one woman said her's had not been read. Apparently unconcerned, the medium asked Sylvia, his spirit guide, to find out which one had been overlooked. In short order, the billet was found on the floor and in a flash, the correct answer was forthcoming.

#### Superb Mediumship

After this seance, which lasted 32 minutes, was over, we discussed the content of our readings. Everyone said that what they had been told by Mr. Bias was quite correct.

Some will ask: "How could the medium do this?" The magician, who is without understanding, will say it was a trick. Alright; but by what trick? This the magician cannot answer, neither can he duplicate this seance under the same conditions.

What is this explanation? Simply that Mr. Bias is a medium. He can be contacted by spirit people. These spirit people can speak to him, can impress him and relay not only the questions but also the answers to the questions. The purpose of the blind-fold is simply to add to the negativeness of the medium in relation to his surroundings.

#### A Unique Phase

Some ask, then why does Mr. Bias and other mediums use adhesive tape? Isn't the blindfold enough? According to Mr. Pressing, the answer is that these questioners do not realize the remarks hurled at blindfold billet readers, (i.e.) "He is peeking," "He is looking down over his nose," "He has special liquid on the blindfold that is transparent," "He loosens the blindfold" and other derisive remarks.

Even though this is a report of my first experience at a seance of this kind, I know it was psychic force and spirit collaboration that enabled Clifford Bias to carry through the demonstration just outlined in this article. Although this answer in itself is simple enough, yet, there are those who frown upon this type of psychic phenomena—saying it is spectacular and not of a spiritual nature. However, I daresay that, in the not too distant future, mediums will appear on the continent who can also demonstrate this unique phase of spirit communication.

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REV. LENA DREWS, Cicero, Illinois, lecturer, mental and physical medium; her schedule at Spiritualist Camps is as follows: July 15th, First Illinois Spiritualist Camp Association, ROCKFORD, Illinois; July 21st to 26th, incl. Ashley Spiritualist Camp, ASHLEY, Ohio; Aug. 12th to Aug. 18th, Mount Pleasant Park Spiritualist Camp, CLINTON, Iowa.

## Clinton Camp Opens July 29

The sixty-third annual season of Mississippi Valley Spiritualist Association, Mt. Pleasant Park Camp, will open July 29th at Clinton, Iowa, and close August 26th, according to Lena Drews, Vice President. Clinton is only 146 miles west of Chicago on a paved auto route.

Listed on the official 1945 program: Ernest A. Schoenfeld, Charles C. Cunningham, Lena Drews, E. B. Page, John Miller and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Sloggett.

The present board of directors are: President, O. L. Dearborn;

## WILLKIE

(Continued from Page 4, Col. 5)

'53, you will see so many changes coming into your own country that if I began to tell you now you would never believe it at all. We may have that world to think about, but remember do what you know to be the right thing yourself, especially to your fellow man.

Always live an honest and upright life, and when you learn to do that you are bringing that new world closer and closer to yourself. Each one of you is bringing that on little by little with your own thoughts and the things you are doing. No one can bring anything to you unless you put an effort into it yourself. The new world is there for each one of you. We Must All Learn

I am not talking to you about the heavenly home where harmonious and happy people get together, where we can enjoy our life fully—where we understand each other better than we do on the earth plane. Here we do not all congregate together. We all have our own place to live. We all have things to do. We are not idle.

What you learn while you are on the earth plane will help you after you have left your physical self. It is easier for you to fight your way when you have learned God's laws as they are, and not as you THINK they are.

Learn all you can, my friends. It will be a blessed day for you when you face your life beyond the veil. Keep your mind open and learn God's laws. Some day you will say to yourself "I am happy I learned my lessons," for by so doing you will have happiness yourself. Blessings to all.

Vice President, Lena Drews; Secretary, John Miller; Treasurer, Edith Allison; Trustees, Adolph Weiss, Ludwig Weigand, Kenneth Cosner and E. B. Page.

For programs write, Secretary, Mount Pleasant Park Spiritualist Camp, Clinton, Iowa.

## Burgess Passes Away

Continued from Page 1, Col. 4-5

... I was just a boy ... they were sitting with the Planchette (Ouija Board) ... I could not read ... I was asked to place my hand on the board ... I did ... A message of warning to my uncle came through ... it was for my Uncle Joseph Longshore ... it was a message telling him not to take a certain trip by train ... as it happened the message saved my Uncle's life because the train, he planned to take, was wrecked."

Many friends and associates of C. A. and Mrs. Burgess will remember a celebration three years ago held at the LaSalle Hotel, Chicago. This celebration commemorated his 85th birthday and the 38th anniversary of his founding of the First Church of Spirit Healing, Lily of The West Temple, Monroe and Paulina St., Chicago.

Rev. C. R. Smith, President of The National Spiritualist Association officiated. President Emeritus, Rev. Joseph P. Whitwell and many officers of the N.S.A. and their State organizations attended BURGESS' funeral.

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## Personal Conscious Survival

### What Is Proof? What Is Evidence?

Asks Ursula Bloom

*Being capable to understand will eliminate much condemnation of the evidence.*

On this slender point hangs a world of controversy. People journey to seances to prove survival; sometimes evidence is good, sometimes it is not good and are bitterly disappointed when such does not prove to be the case. The trouble is to know what would prove survival to you.

I once thought that if only I would speak to my mother in the spirit world, that this experience would be proof enough for me. She gave me her name, she gave me all manner of little details of her life, and at the time I was deeply impressed, and almost convinced.

I say almost, because I am sure that in each of us there is some strange contradiction of emotions which makes it very hard for us to believe.

#### Problem of Conviction

The moment we leave the seance we start pulling it to bits. We argue this and that. Thought-reading is one suggestion. The medium delving into our own sub-conscious. Our "helping" her unwittingly. We go to the greatest pains to convince ourselves that we are believing in something that is unreal.

When my mother had helped me enormously, had told me pieces of evidence I had sought from her (but always with another one ready) which proves that I was not prepared to be convinced, suddenly she gave me the most conclusive piece of evidence.

She had told me of her birthday present to me when I was five, something I had completely forgotten, and which I contradicted flatly, but she was right, as I proved later.

Finally, growing tired of it all, she gave me my evidence. "Go away, and don't do this sort of thing. There is nothing that I can say to convince somebody who does not want to be convinced. It doesn't matter anyway; one of these days you'll know."

And turning that over and over

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(P-166)

in my own mind I realize that is just what she would have said. I have never asked her for evidence since.

How much wiser it is to forego the anxiety to prove that the dead live; how much wiser to realize that, if there is anything to it at all, the dead might be able to help us, and therefore the better plan is to seek some guidance rather than keep groping in the dark every time!

Truth lies beyond the veil. There

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Psychic Observer  
URSULA BLOOM

is so much evidence that they can return, and do return, and are very near to us all the time, that we ought to accept this and abide by it.

Spiritualism is not for self-gain; it was not given to us to satisfy our personal curiosity, but to help us live better lives and benefit by wiser counsel.

If you are one of those people, going from seance to seance, restlessly seeking information, never satisfied when you get it, always connecting spiritualism with YOU rather than yourself with Spiritualism, then give it up.

I don't suppose that I have a sitting more than once a year nowadays; then it is just to hear if there is anything "they want to tell me." Usually there is plenty. But I may strike a bad moment, and this is what people will not take into consideration when dealing with Spiritualism.

#### Things To Remember

Always remember that the spirit you most desire to communicate with may be absent, the medium may not be in the right mood. We all know what happens to the radio set when there are atmospheric about; how much more may this happen to the spirit world, a medium, and ourselves, when dealing with this very difficult problem?

A friend and I had a sitting some time back; it was very bad. He was most miserable because this particular medium had been his idea, and he blamed her. It was his fifth or sixth sitting, not more.

I told him not to be so foolish, give the woman another chance, which he did. The next sitting she was marvelous. Conditions were excellent, everything dovetailed into that seance, and I think it was the best I have ever had.

Spiritualism will never achieve its greatest work whilst people seek self gain from it, or believe that they can get it anywhere any time,

and it is bound to be the very best.

A telephonic system of communication between two worlds is baffling; try telephoning to New York and, if conditions are not good, you will be horrified at how tricky that can be. How much more complicated when speaking to "Heaven"!

#### Why Ignore The Trivial

"Don't be put off by what you call the 'footling trifles' they tell you. You do not know the conditions in which they are working; maybe it is only footling trifles that they can get through. And so often those footling trifles are so much more convincing than anything else.

Let me quote one apparently footling one. The medium told me that my mother was saying something about the two of us playing a piano. Naturally I thought of a duet and could not place it. She then asked if my mother was very fond of "Lead Kindly Light," because that seemed to be the tune. I said No, she did not care for "Lead Kindly Light."

Much later, I remembered to what it referred. I had been the blind one. At one period in my hard-up life I played the piano in a cinema. My mother came over for matinees and helped me out—hence the two people playing the piano.

#### Our Capabilities Limited

The cinema was showing the picture "Quo Vadis," and we mapped out for one of the early Christian service scenes, to play hymns. I could play *Lead Kindly Light* by heart. My mother was always mislaying the music, and finding it gone just at the moment when she wanted it most.

It did not make her like the hymn any better, somewhat naturally.

Yet I had, when the incident was recalled to me quite vaguely, being the only way that she could recall it, glossed it over as not being evidence.

The question is, what is evidence? What is proof? And are we personally capable of understanding the proof which sometimes we condemn so readily?

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Psychic Observer

LEONA BEA KELSO, certified medium, healer and licentiate, 1424 Miner St., Des Plaines, Illinois; scheduled to serve Lily Dale Assembly, Lily Dale, N. Y., during the current 1945 season.

## Independent Spiritualism

*Its useful teachings will inspire humanity to nobler deeds.*

By Horace Leaf, F.R.G.S.

18 Atholl Crescent  
Edinburgh, Scotland

Since the World War I and during this war Spiritualism has undergone a somewhat new development. A section of it has departed from the eclecticism which had always characterized it. Its chief glory was, and probably will always be, a freedom of thought which marks it out as non-sectarian and non-theological.

A religious movement which accepts no scripture as authoritative, but which searches all for spiritual enlightenment, may be said to have a world-wide mission. It not only leaps over all the barriers which institutional religions have erected, but goes a long way towards abolishing them; a not unimportant task in the establishment of a belief which can unite all humanity in one ideal and inspire mankind to aspire after the same spiritual end.

#### Supernormal Phenomena

Such an aim is essential if science and religion are to work hand in hand, and as the basis of Spiritualism is scientific, Spiritualism to make a world-wide appeal, must adopt it. Doubtless the main body of Spiritualists will always conform to this principle; if it does not, then *Spiritualism as a world religion is doomed.*

To attach itself to any of the old established religions would not only rob it of its independence, but destroy it altogether.

This danger probably lies more with Christianity than with any other faith. *Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, to mention the three principal other leading systems, have never entirely lost touch with the spirit-world. All have sects which include among their practices what is commonly known as magic, but which generally means supernormal phenomena.*

#### The "Devil" Theory

Institutional Christianity has always regarded these practices as evidence of heathenism, and has made it a strong point for appointing missionaries to teach these people the error of their way and persuade them to adopt the "true faith."

For four hundred years it waged war against anyone who showed the slightest sign of being in touch with the unseen, attributing all such practices to consorting with the Devil.

Thousands of men, women and children were severely punished and even destroyed as wizards and witches, on the assumption that it was better to destroy the body than to endanger the soul. No other

great religion seems to have been so pitiless. The fact that the persecutors were sincere does not undo the melancholy fact.

As Spiritualism thrives principally in Christian countries, the danger of it being absorbed in the established religion becomes stronger, and there are not wanting signs that some such absorption is being striven after.

#### Religious Prejudice

It is, of course, not a deliberately organized scheme, and no one would be justified in doubting the absolute sincerity of those who aim at attaching Spiritualism to Christianity. That, however, does not make the effort less real.

Since the World War I and during this war there has been something like an exodus of Christians to Spiritualism, owing to Christianities inability to give assurance and consolation to those bereaved during that terrible holocaust.

These people have naturally brought over their religious prejudices, and endeavors to attach their new belief to their old one. Jesus has been exalted above all other world teachers, much to the dissatisfaction of the members of other faiths who are interested in Spiritualism. All who have been trained into specific religious beliefs inevitably favor them.

#### Many Great Teachers

The position can be best appreciated if *Christian Spiritualists* consider how they would feel if an *Islamic Spiritualist* laid supreme emphasis on *Mohammed* as the greatest spiritual leader, and maintained that he alone was God's chosen representative according to whose precepts mankind must make their lives conform.

There is no reason why *Jesus* should not be held up as an example to mankind; but the principal applies all 'round. *Zoroaster, Khristna, Buddha, Moses*, and the great religious founders of other systems may justly claim equal recognition.

It is because of the force of this claim that Spiritualism must be eclectic. There is not the slightest chance of it appealing to all mankind if it is insisted that undue deference be paid to anyone of these characters. Nor is it a way out to insist that the teachings of one are superior to another, as people read into these teachings their own ideals.

#### Christian vs. Moslem

This fact was amply illustrated recently in a discussion between a *Christian* and a *Moslem*. When the *Moslem* pointed out what he regarded as defects and omissions in the life and teachings of *Jesus*, the *Christian* retorted that all that *Jesus* had taught had not been re-

(Continued Page 11, Col. 1)

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# Independent Spiritualism

(Continued from Page 10, Col. 5)

corded and began to call on his imagination to supply the deficiencies.

Of course, anything could be proved by such a method, and the Moslem would have none of it. His case appeared very strong when he quoted passages from the Koran showing that Mohammed's teachings had no such hiatuses.

The outcome of the argument was unsatisfactory. The Christian refused to keep to the text of his scriptures, insisting that here had been omissions and errors of translation, and persisted in attributing to Jesus what he thought Jesus must have said. This so irritated the Moslem that the meeting broke up in mutual recrimination, a common occurrence when religious speculation is in dispute.

## The Light of Reason

Then there is the point of view of the skeptic to be considered. Christianity has been gradually undermined by the growth of secularism. From the point of view of church attendance, Christian countries are the least religious. Modern civilization has largely progressed in the face of religious obstruction, and as science becomes more and more powerful skepticism becomes more apparent.

Desertion of this kind from Christian ranks has not been solely the result of a decrease in a realization of the spiritual. It has largely followed on the application of the scientific method to history and the use of logic. Christianity has never seriously claimed to be a logical faith.

In the light of reason it has been shown to be extremely illogical, and it has gradually come to realize this, and efforts are being made to give it a more reasonable interpretation. Where this has not been attempted whole nations have departed officially from it, as witness France, Italy, Spain and Mexico during present generations.

## Value of Psychic Research

Christian Modernism has unintentionally confirmed the skeptic in his doubts, for it has shaken almost to pieces the very foundations of Christianity. It is not uncommon to read the confessions of clergymen who admit that modern historical research into the gospels has almost paralyzed their faith. Some have won back their confidence through Spiritualism and the findings of psychic research.

Perhaps the future religious attitude of the world rests with science. If it does, Spiritualism must become an all powerful force. It enables us to start afresh and rely on present experience and not on doubtful tradition.

There is a good deal to be said for the point of view that our ancestors were no more qualified to speak with authority on religion than upon Nature. Why should a special revelation be made to one generation and not to another?

There seems to be something

radically defective in a scheme which compels mankind to move along a line of discovery which, whilst unveiling Nature, shows that the speculations of our ancestors on matters of fact were almost always wrong.

None of the great religions has been very near the truth regarding the constitution of the human mind. It has been left for the modern psychologist to uncover the subliminal mind and show us hitherto unsuspected capacities and powers which are so active that almost unperceived, they direct our daily lives.

## Spiritualism Unrestrained

The student of psychology—a rapidly growing branch of science—may be excused if he refuses to believe institutional religions reliable when they and their founders were ignorant of the real nature of the human soul with which they professed to be intimately acquainted.

Spiritualism must be unrestrained in all departments. It must carry its message and method to all and sundry free from the burden of restraint such as would

HORACE LEAF, London, England, Internationally-known traveler, author, writer and mental medium; has lectured throughout United States, Canada and on the continent. He is now in Scotland and scheduled to fill engagements in Iceland from which point he may return to America.



For the past thirty years he has written articles for leading spiritualist periodicals in England, Sweden, Australia and the U.S. A. He is the author of the book "What Mediumship Is" (now in print).

be imposed by a slavish adherence to the precepts of any individual and any institution, no matter how venerable.

Indeed, the more ancient they are the more must they be suspect. Only those teachings which conform with experience, common-sense and the well-being of mankind must be seriously entertained and all slavish adherence to the past abolished, especially when based on fear. There is something lacking in any religion which threatens its adherents and non-adherents.

Jesus, the Buddha, Moses, Mohammed, Zoroaster and Krishna will not become less influential in a healthy way under such conditions. Indeed, one may prognosticate that their teachings, divested of all unnecessary decorations, will shine out the brighter and their works become more effective. If they made statements which are unreasonable, they will not be bolstered up with threats, but be relegated gracefully to the limbo of forgotten errors; but their useful teachings will inspire humanity to nobler deeds.

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# The Truth About RAYMOND

Lady Lodge relates facts concerning first communication from her "dead" son.

LADY LODGE departed this life at Normanton, Lake, Salisbury, on the 20th of February, 1929, and Spiritualists the world over were most sympathetic toward Sir Oliver who was her life partner for fifty-two years. Her Ladyship had much to do with Sir Oliver's departure from his long, cautious, critical, scientific attitude to Spiritualism and his fervent adoption of the Truth of Survival and the Reality of Communion. It has been suggested to us by a reader that we should re-tell that story, which is not too well known. Before doing so, however, we think it well to place on record Sir Oliver's beautiful, affectionate tribute to his wife:

## "In Memoriam"

"I and the family," he writes, "have been overwhelmed by tokens of love and affection which have reached us from all quarters.

"None of us is lamenting her departure unduly. We knew how ready she was to go, and we knew how eagerly and lovingly she would be welcomed when the time of her release came. The period of helplessness was painful to her and none of us wished to prolong it.

"Our faith in continued existence is absolutely secure; not a shadow of doubt troubles us. The funeral was indeed a thanksgiving service for a long and beneficent life, a peaceful end of the illness, and a happy reunion with those who had gone before.

"She was interested beforehand in the funeral arrangements. She begged that it should not be gloomy, and hoped that we would walk from the house to the church, a distance of only half a mile, singing selected hymns all the way.

"The coffin of unpolished English oak was draped in a white embroidered silk shawl, an heirloom of the family, and on a brass plate was the inscription:

Mary Fanny Alexander Lodge

Born 11th March, 1851

Died 20th February, 1929.

'She has joined Raymond and Violet.'

"Tears were absent, in spite of the inevitable pang of temporal separation; the keynote of the service was thankfulness in the sure and certain hope of immortality. The whole was carried out in accordance with her wish, as a sign to the villagers that only her discarded body was being committed to the ground, that she herself was there in spirit, and that joy rather than sorrow should herald her promotion to a happier sphere.

## Raymond's First Messages

"She sympathized with Tennyson's lines in 'The Ancient Sage,' which may be here quoted:

'I hate the black negation of the bier,

And wish the dead, as happier than ourselves,

And higher, having climb'd one step beyond

Our village miseries, might be borne in white

To burial or to burning, hymn'd from hence

With songs in praise of death, and crowned with flowers.'

"She often recited portions of the 23rd Psalm and 'Crossing the

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Bar,' while she was lying weak and helpless."

And now this is the story. Second-Lieutenant Raymond Lodge was killed on September 14, 1915, at Hooze Hill, during an attack on the enemy.

A few days later Lady Lodge accompanied a French lady guest, who had been kind to her daughters in Paris, from Birmingham to London. This lady was in great distress at the loss of both her sons in the war within a week of each other, and to comfort her Lady Lodge took her to see a Mrs. Kennedy in London, who arranged two sittings with Gladys Osborne Leonard.

Both ladies attended these sittings anonymously and on both occasions the two sons of Madame communicated with her.

Lady Lodge was a silent participant in the first seance. She was seeking for and expecting nothing for herself. But Raymond, eight days after he had been struck down, made his living presence known to her, and spelt out by tilts of a table the message:

"Tell Father I Have Met Some

Friends of His"

His Mother asked:—"Can you give any name?" "Yes," replied her son, "Myers." (This was taken to refer to Mr. F. W. Myers.) It was only a little message but how tremendous was its significance. It meant undoubtedly, "My son was dead and is alive."

The thrilling effect of it at home may be guessed for on the second day thereafter Sir Oliver came from Birmingham to have a sitting with the same medium. He went as a complete stranger. The medium was Mrs. Leonard. She was entranced and her control described a youth "in terms which distinctly suggested Raymond." And thereupon Father and Son conversed together, Raymond saying, amongst other things:

"People think I say I am happy in order to make them happier, but I don't. I have met

hundreds of friends. I don't know them all. I have met many who tell me that a little later they will explain why they are helping me. I feel I have got two fathers now. I don't feel I have lost one and got another; I have got my old one, and another too—a pro tem. father" (referring to Myers).

These were busy days spent by the parents in talks with their son. Only three hours separated this message and one received by Lady Lodge through Vout Peters, another well-known medium. His control said Myers was helping Raymond, and the following message, characteristic of Myers, was slowly dictated to the sitter:

"Not only is the partition so thin that you can hear the operation on the other side, but a big hole has been made . . . Hitherto it has been a thing of the head; now I am come over it is a thing of the heart."

## Raymond's Message

A month later Sir Oliver also visited this medium, when Raymond, referring to Myers' help, said to his Father:

"He helped me because, with me through you, he can break away the dam that people have set up. Later on you are going to speak to them. It is already on the programme, and you will break down the opposition because of me. For God's sake, father, do it! Because if you only knew, and could only see what I see: hundreds of men and women heart-broken. And if you could only see the boys on our side shut out, you would throw the whole strength of yourself into this work."

And these were the experiences which, on Lady Lodge's initiative, enlarged Sir Oliver's horizon, persuaded his heart, and led him to "throw his whole strength into this work."

Read the book, "RAYMOND" or Life after Death by Sir Oliver Lodge. Used copies \$2.50 obtainable from Dale News, Inc., Lily Dale, N. Y.

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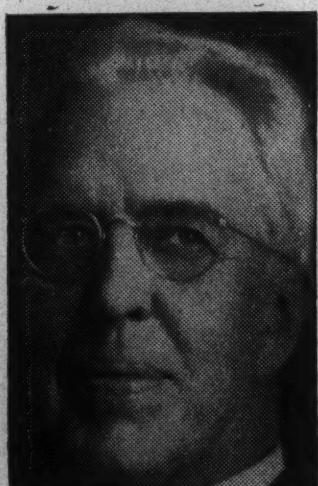
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(P-170)





# Rare Photographs of Psychic Phenomena

## Through the Mediumship of LEONARD STOTT Taken Under Strict Test Conditions

The pictures below are the result of years of psychic research with a relatively unknown physical medium, LEONARD STOTT who resides at 5966 Malta St., Philadelphia, Pa.

During the seance at which these pictures were taken, strict test conditions were exacted of the medium by the following sitters: EDWARD C. WOOD, author of the book, "The How of Divine Revelation" and manager of The Wood Manufacturing Company, 646 Erie St., Camden, N. J.; SHERWOOD EDDY, 52 Vanderbilt Ave., New York City—noted writer and author of the books, "The Kingdom of God and The American Dream," "Maker of Men" and "Man Discovers God; GEORGE SCHAFER, accountant and tax expert, Wilmington, Delaware; GRACE P. SCHAFER, psychic researcher and writer; JULIETTE EWING PRESSING, editor of *Psychic Observer*.



*Psychic Observer*

The flash-light picture above was taken in a totally dark room. The medium, LEONARD STOTT, can be seen slumped in the chair, both arms and hands in plain view. EDWARD WOOD is shown handling the cord-like psychic structure, emanating from the medium's mouth—the force generated is sufficient to hold the trumpet in an upright position.



*Psychic Observer*

The test conditions to which Stott was subjected in the above flash-light picture are self-evident. Mr. Wood controls the medium's left hand, while SHERWOOD EDDY holds the medium's right hand. The trumpet is levitated by force directed through the ectoplasmic structure extending over the medium's chest.



*Psychic Observer*

The flash-light picture above shows JULIETTE EWING PRESSING holding the medium's right hand. GRACE P. SCHAFER holds the medium's left hand. GEORGE SCHAFER, extreme right, witnesses the phenomena as a mass or billow of ectoplasmic substance exuding from the medium's mouth.

## OUR DEBT To Others

By  
Ernest Oaten

TIME and again the question is asked by investigators: "Why all these foreign controls?"

It is a question which has agitated a good many minds. We are accustomed to regard our standard of life and education as something which stamps us as superior in some ways to the more primitive races of the world.

It strikes the beginner with surprise to find that in the seance room the most efficient "guides" or controls are frequently—though not invariably—Hindus, Red Indians, Chinese or individuals with colored skins, and since few people have risen above the "color bar" and still regard those races which are not white skinned as belonging to an inferior race—the experience jars.

Personally I can see no objection to acknowledging our debt to the foreigner. Is it not true that all religions, even the Christian system, are based upon the lives and teachings of those who were, to us, foreigners.

### Real Values

Our philosophy too is erected upon foundations laid by ancient Greeks, Chinese and others, for many of the Southern European, Asiatic and African peoples had a great civilization when our British ancestors were roaming the forests.

Upon the inner side of life they seem to have solved the question of nationality. What a man is and what he can do is of far greater importance than the land he was born in, whilst his usefulness constitutes a higher standard of appeal than the color of his skin or the school at which he was educated.

Even if we consider only the more primitive races, they were children of nature and based their lives upon their experiences. Life to them was less involved than to us, and if they saw less of the complexities of life they probably saw it clearer.

### The Foreign Controls

They were not confused with those many theological speculations which accompany the effort to endeavor to make two and two five, which too often seem to me to be the chief occupation of the ecclesiastical mind. To the primitive mind life is simple and direct, because it deals only with basic facts.

The arithmetic of the elementary schools, simple addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, gives clear cut and dependable results whilst the higher mathematics or the differential calculus are often matters which lead to mental abstractions.

Spiritualism owes a great debt to foreign controls, many of whom have shown great intellectual attainment in addition to a wealth of specialized knowledge. Take for instance that remarkable band of truly intellectual spirits who

surrounded Stainton Moses (Imperator, Rector, etc.): the company (Galen and others) who inspired the teachings given through Andrew Jackson Davis: or in later times the minds which produced through Geraldine Cummings the "Scripts of Cleophas."

Who that ever heard him will forget the masterly orations of "Tien Sien Tie" the chief control of J. J. Moore, dignified, cultured and logical to the last degree. Tien was a Chinaman, yet for breadth of vision, sound philosophy and a wide knowledge of psychic law, there would be few white men to compare with him.

### The Red Indians

It must be remembered that the white races lost all contact with the spirit world about 1850 years ago, and the nature of the after life has been a matter of speculation since that time.

On the other hand, the colored races have maintained an actual and personal contact with that world through all the centuries. In every home in China a festival is held annually at which the family ancestors are invoked and there are no phenomena with which Spiritualists are familiar, which have not been common to that race for tens of centuries.

The Red Indians, too, have practised direct communication with their deceased friends as far back as history allows us to trace and I am assured that every year a festival is held—or was until the white man's materialism overlaid it—at which the late chief of the tribe appears and forecasts the events of the forthcoming year.

### Scientists Underrated?

Many of these primitive tribes have known and still know more about the minutiae of spirit communication than all the scientific minds of the *Society of Psychical Research* combined.

What does the white man know about the process of communication? He is an infant who has been dabbling with the subject for a mere 60 years or so, as against the thousands of years of experience of the native races of Asia, Africa, America, etc. Even the South Sea Islanders have been known to employ psychic gifts to obtain information for which we

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## SHE ANNOUNCES OPENING OF CAMP SILVER BELLE



*Psychic Observer*

ETHEL POST-PARRISH, Sec'y of Camp Silver Belle, Ephrata, Pennsylvania, is a clairvoyant, direct-voice and materialization medium.

The official 1945 summer season at Camp Silver Belle opened June 23rd and closes Labor Day, according to Mrs. Post-Parrish. Listed on the official program are: Hugh Gordon Burroughs, Raymond Burns, Arthur Ford, Bertha Eckroad, Elizabeth Fabian, Mary Fulton, Margaret Lewis, Roger Hooker, M. McBride Pantan, John Reese, Edith Green, Harold Lumsden, Marion Miller and Joseph Snyder.

For complete 1945 program of all lectures, services, seances and activities, write Sec'y Camp Silver Belle, Mountain Springs Hotel, Ephrata, Pa.

Mrs. Post-Parrish has just completed a very successful winter season at her Florida headquarters, 2800 Central Ave., St. Petersburg. This center is known as THE INSTITUTE OF UNIVERSAL SCIENCE. Property has been purchased and construction on a new building will be well under way before January, 1946.

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rely on the modern methods of the telegraph or radio.

I would not underrate the scientific or intellectual attainments of the white man. They have their values, and we should be poorer without them, but intellect is not the whole of life and knowledge of a physical world comprises but a section of life's processes.

### Life IS Eternal

The majority of the primitive races have no fear of death—they view him as a friend. They have a very clear idea of where they are going when the great call comes, for they have caught glimpses of the larger life whilst the majority of our people have no more idea of the condition of the life they will enter at death than they have of conditions on the planet Neptune.

It is a pitiable fact that whilst we have been busy making the most, or best, of this life—a life which is transient and ephemeral—whilst we have been industrious in gathering the things we shall have to leave behind, we have largely neglected to cultivate a knowledge of life as a whole—for life is eternal.

### What Can You Do?

I repeat again the people on the inner side of life have solved the problem of nationality. All nations have their place there in the scheme of things and differences of race are swallowed up in the consideration of the common good.

Over there they care nothing about who you are or what may be your nationality, creed, color or education. Their standard is, what can you do? What contribution can you make to the well-being of the community; can you become a note, or a chord in the anthem of a harmonious humanity?